FBIS DAILY REPORT

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COSTA RICA'S MONGE OPENS IDB MEETING IN SAN JOSE

PA250547 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2011 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] San Jose, 24 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge today asked the wealthy creditors of the small countries to end injustice in the renegotiation of the foreign debt. He made this request before almost 3,000 delegates, among them economy and finance ministers of America, Asia, and Europe, at the opening of the 28th annual meeting of the IDB governors.

Setting the case of Costa Rica, which is the same as other countries of similar dimensions, Monge said that "the conditions of renegotiating their debt are more severe than those obtained by larger countries in the area. [quotation marks as received] Monge said that this "historically does not make sense. They do not fear us because we do not pose a threat to the international financial system." He said: "What is being done is increasing the problems of developing countries, because when harsher conditions are imposed on weaker economies it makes it more difficult for us to fulfill out commitments." In his opening speech, Monge said that there is a possibility that the "great sin of the small debtor countries" who do not threaten the international financial system "might become their great virtue."

Monge stressed that "it is possible for the financial community to accept renegotiating conditions according to the relative weakenss of our economies." He said that to further that aim, Costa Rica, with the moral right it has after having met "with sacrifices" its international commitments, poses the urgent need "to share the costs with the creditor nations in paying the debt, and the need to eliminate injustice in the renegotiations of the small nations' debts." Monge announced that his government has prepared a program "that will allow our creditors to exchange currency debts for deeds in local currency, aimed at investing in new industries." After declaring the 28th meeting of the IDB governors officially opened, President Monge said that the IDB's role in Costa Rica's economic and social development is "historic and fundamental."

Latin America Losing Capital

PA280450 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 6 A

[Editorial: "Serious Impoverishment"]

[Text] The IDB annual activities report made public at this organization's meeting in Costa Rica indicates that Latin America has experienced a rapid impoverishment and underdevelopment during the past 4 years. The loss of capital has been constant since 1982. A subcontinent traditionally affected by the backwardness of large social groups and by an unequal distribution of wealth, over the past 4 years has become a full exporter of liquid capital to industrialized countries. In 1985 the bloodletting totalled $30 billion which, added to that of the three previous years, yields a total that surpasses $100 billion. Unfortunately, the regression continues. The IDB reports, for example, that in 1984 Latin America's gross internal investment dropped by more than $50 billion, making the region fall below the levels established in 1974. The figures are exact: All the progress made in a decade was lost due to the depression that began in 1982 and which is not showing signs of ending. The international financial crisis has forced the countries in the region to turn toward export markets in search of the foreign exchange essential for the payment of their debts. This same fact coincides with a depreciation of raw materials and an increasingly acute deterioration of foreign exchange terms, but also with a loss in the dynamics of manufactured exports. Latin America cannot continue on this path of improverishment and loss of capital. After 4 years of efforts, another crisis is approaching, but this time the region is responsible for stopping this economically absurd situation.

MINISTRY PLEDGES REDOUBLED SUPPORT FOR CONTADORA

PA301818 Paris AFP in Spanish 1620 GMT 30 Mar 86

[By Juan Araya]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (AFP) -- The Argentine Government will redouble its efforts in the forthcoming Contadora Group meeting to find new alternatives that will prevent the Central American situation from worsening, Foreign Ministry sources disclosed today in Buenos Aires. As a member of the Support Group of the Contadora Group -- in addition to Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay -- Argentina will work to prevent by all means a choice between supporting or opposing the U.S. strategy of offering economic and military aid to the contras, who are fighting against the Sandinist regime of Nicaragua, according to the San Martin Palace (Foreign Ministry site) spokesmen.

The Argentine Government will also maintain its stand of rejecting any alignment with the sectors in conflict and will insist that the basic solution in the region should abide by the points covered in the Carabelleda document, signed in Carabelleda, Venezuela, at the end of 1985. This document basically urges the United States to suspend support to the anti-Sandinists and urges Nicaragua to adopt a domestic democracy.

The delicate balance that Argentine diplomacy will try to preserve will be reflected next Wednesday at the Senate, when it learns of a draft resolution presented by pro-government legislator Ricardo Lafferiere. The resolution proposes that any funds approved by the U.S. Congress be channeled through the Contadora Group. The president of the Senate Foreign Ministry Commission, Adolfo Gass, said that the proposal "might be one possibility." but he admitted that the probability that it will be approved is rather limited.

However, he pointed out that it might "call attention" to the fact that the Honduran-Nicaraguan crisis is worsening and that the Reagan administration is getting more involved in the region.

Diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires stated that Argentina has ruled out any automatic alignment with the United States concerning the Central American situation and that this stand has led to differences between the State Department and the Foreign Ministry.

DEFENSE MINISTER LOPEZ LEAVES FOR FRG

PY302034 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Defence Minister German Lopez refused to make declarations to the press when he left for Bonn on a scheduled flight yesterday to meet his West German counterpart Manfred Woerner and to update himself on aspects of that country's military organization. Defence Minister Woerner -- who invited Lopez -- will return the visit and come to Buenos Aires towards the end of May. Lopez will also meet top West German brass and discuss the relationship between the armed forces and government in West Germany as well as possibly visiting munitions plants and military academies. The first meeting of the two ministers is slated for Wednesday.

Meanwhile newspaper reports indicate one of the submarines which West Germany is building for the Argentine Navy has been sold to a third country because of budget problems. Defence production secretary Daniel Larriqueta admitted "conversations are taking place with different friendly countries" but indicated the sale had "not yet" been closed. Lopez and Woerner are also expected to discuss the submarine deal.

GROUP TO COMMEMORATE FALKLANDS ISLANDS WAR

PY281705 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1430 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Mar (DYN) -- The Center of Volunteers for the Fatherland today reported that its president, Osvaldo Destefanis, is sailing south with relatives of soldiers killed during the war with Great Britain over the possession of the Malvinas Islands. The center reported that to commemorate the date when Argentine forces disembarked on the Malvinas Islands, Destefanis and those accompanying him will throw a wreath near the site where the General Belgrano cruiser was sunk.

JOURNALISTS FROM CANCELED RADIO SHOW PROTEST

PY302054 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (DYN) -- Journalists from the radio former weekend Show Manana, Tarde y Noche (aired until the first week of March when it was suddenly lifted) challenged the new radio authorities' decision to "leave professionals without a job," contending such a move is typical of "measures adopted previous to the current democratic government." The radio show, created and produced by Arturo Cavallo, managed to take third place in audience rating and was described as "the best Argentine radio programme" by various media. The journalists stressed the show "never had to retract statements nor was asked for the right to reply and always made a point of investigating its stories to the very end.

BRIEFS

RAILWAY CARS TO YUGOSLAVIA -- The bid of an Argentine enterprise that produces railway sleepers has been accepted by the Yugoslav Railway Enterprise. Consequently, Santiago del Estero enterprise will sell a total of 140,000 sleepers worth $7 million to Yugoslavia. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 86 PY]

ARGENTINE STEEL TO JAPAN -- Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association will ship approximately 10,000 tons of hot rolled steel to Japan in the first lot of quarterly shipments to start next March or April. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0238 GMT 28 Feb 86 PY]

ARGENTINE-PERUVIAN AGREEMENT -- Lima, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Today the Peruvian Government agreed to the implementation of an agreement by which Argentina will extend a credit of $100 million for Peru to purchase Argentine goods. The credit will be paid off in quarterly installments, starting in 9 months, and the interest rate will be established by the current reciprocal credit agreement between the central banks of the two countries. Peru is mainly interested in beef, wheat, and milk by-products. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2116 GMT 27 Mar 86 PY]

BEDREGAL DENIES RENEWING RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY291407 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said that the government will not reconsider, under any circumstances, the appointment of Jorge Siles Salinas as new Bolivian consul in Chile, because the president has the constitutional power to make such appointments. Following are the explanations that Guillermo Bedregal gave regarding this subject:

[Begin recording] This is a decision by the president and, according to the law, the president has all the necessary power to make such decisions. The present government basically abides by the constitutional principles, and this means that it safeguards its own legal powers and respects those of the other branches of the state. [end recording]

Bedregal then asserted that Bolivia has at no time proposed the resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile. According to Bedregal, this is only a rumor invented by people who are enemies of the current regime.

[Begin recording] No one has spoken about the government resuming diplomatic relations with Chile, absolutely no one. Such an idea exists only in the heads of those who wish that the government would make a mistake and who wish to encourage it. The government is not so stupid as to make this kind of mistake. [end recording]

BARTHELEMY DENOUNCES 'DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS'

PY280132 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2235 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Bolivian Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy today reported efforts aimed at creating confrontations and bloodshed to destabilize the government and the Bolivian democratic process. In a press conference 2 hours after a dynamite attack against the U.S. Embassy, Barthelemy warned of the government's disposition to enforce the state of siege if the security measures of state organizations cannct control social disruption.

The threat against the government has emerged from the urban and rural teacher unions which in 2 months of striking have been able to promote real solidarity of the people with teachers' salary demands. In addition to that, the mining distructs are protesting their economic situation, and the Bolivian University Federation is carrying out demonstrations for a higher education budget. In Cochabama, 2 students were wounded and approximately 50 were arrested during a demonstration organized by the National Defense Committee for Education, which was supported by the Labor Federation, the Teachers Federation, and the Peasant and University Confederations.

Barthelemy said that the way the street protests are being carried out has become a dangerous public threat, because some sectors have taken advantage of this situation to create confrontations with the police. The minister said: "We will force the organizations responsible for the protests to take responsibility for the damage and confrontations that may occur during the demonstrations,and we will subject them to legal sanctions." He added: "the government can guarantee social peace and the people's tranquillity because the political situation is under control despite the union actions and social protests resulting form the economic crisis which are used by interested groups to create disturbances."

Barthelemy said that "there are civilians who carry arms and try to cause tragic deaths and injuries, using the victims as martyrs against the government." He pointed out that intelligence organizations had detected in Oruro, 239 km south of La Paz, that that city has become a subversive center with the support of some mining unions.

The minister also presented to reporters the brothers Justo and Victor Ordonez Palza. Justo is 23 years old, and Victor is a minor. They both live in Oruro. The minister said that weapons of the type used by the Army were confiscated. Barthelemy said that mine leader Jose Ordonez of the San Jose mine is responsible for the weapons and that a warrant for his arrest was ordered because he is the arms supplier. One of the brothers, who said he belongs to the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), pointed out that the arms, which include "Mauser" rifles from the 1950s, were never used and that he had it in his house for 2 years.

Meanwhile, political sectors today said that the government accusations are a pretext to threaten the population and to stop the growing social protest in view of the announcement of a new tax reform which was rejected by the workers, peasants, and middle class because "they go against the interests of the majority."

COB TO ORGANIZE RESISTANCE TO TAX REFORM

PY272340 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 26 Mar (EFE) -- The Bolivian Workers Confederation (COB) has called on the workers to resist the government's decision to implement the Tax Reform Law.

In a document released today, the COB protests the government's "criminal" intention to levy taxes on the entire population's consumption, income, and property. The tax code reform is meant to collect funds to back the new economic policy, and government considers it vital to the functioning of the state.

In turn, COB affirms that "the tax reform law was drafted to comply with the demands of the IMF, disregarding the criminal economic situation of the country and the dramatic conditions in which the large national majorities are living." The COB document further says that "the attempt to increase tax revenues in view of the situation of profound economic recession brought about by the government's economic policy is at odds with the universal principle that the collection of revenues to finance the state apparatus should be directly proportional to the volume of economic activity."

Only people with fixed incomes are complying with their tax obligations, while the level of tax evasion is high in the economically better of sectors, the COB document says. The COB points out that the passage of the tax reform bill in Congress will affect lower and middle sectors. On the other hand, the 10 percent across-the-board income tax amounts to confiscation of the already meager earnings of the people, adds the COB document.

According to the COB, the levying of taxes on peasants will only compound the problem created by the land-expropriation process being executed by moneyed groups, which tends to reconstitute the large land estates reducing the benefits of the Agrarian Reform.

GOVERNMENT SAYS STRIKING TEACHERS' JOBS 'VACANT'

PY280236 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The national government has declared striking teachers' positions vacant. In order to solve the education problem, President Victor Paz Estenssoro signed a decree to that effect, which was announced by the education minister.

The decree calls for a radical solution to the education problem. No official reaction has yet been heard from teacher union organizations.

The government decree leaves the teachers without work but with the option of returning to teaching if they accept the salaries recently established by the government.

COCAINE SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

PY310056 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 30 Mar (AFP) -- It was officially reported in La Paz today that over the past 10 days the Antinarcotics Directorate of the Bolivian Police seized 127 kg of cocaine throughout the country and arrested 12 people involved in drug trafficking.

The Antinarcotics Directorate has stated that personnel trained in the antinarcotics struggle are conducting important actions to curb illegal drug trafficking, patrolling airports and key towns involved in drug trafficking.

In addition, it has been stated that Cochabamba, in central Bolivia, is the district where more cocaine sulphate and hydrochloride operations take place because the Chapare coca-leaf producing area is best suited for the activities of drug traffickers.

In conclusion, it was reported that the Leopards, an elite group advised by experts from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, will control the Chapare tropical area.

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK -- According to a preliminary report issued by the Peasant Affairs Ministry, a total of 8,000 head of cattle have caught foot-and-mouth disease in the flooded areas of La Paz Department. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 9 PY]

NONTRADITIONAL EXPORTS -- According to Industry Under Secretary Fedor Perez Alcala, Bolivian exports of nontraditional goods during 1985 amounted to $21 million. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 9 PY]

AGREEMENT WITH ITALY -- An agreement signed between the Italian and the Bolivian Governments will make it possible for the Mineral Metallurgical Investigations Institute (IIMM) in Oruro to install a hydrometallurgical pilot plant for the recovery of gold and silver contained in the minerals wolfram, lead, zinc, antimony, copper, tin, arsenopyrite, and others. Current gold recovery percentage is 30-35 but it could be increased to 80-85 with new method. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 1 PY]

TREASURY REPORTS TAX EVASION -- La Paz, 2 Mar (EFE) -- The government has reported that Bolivian treasury revenues only reached 31 percent of the national budget because of extensive tax evasion. Officials have reported that there are 73,574 businesses in Bolivia but only 21,422 are registered and only 50 percent of those submit annual tax reports. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0253 GMT 3 Mar 86 PY]

GOVERNMENT DENIES TIES WITH CHILE FROZEN

PY281732 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1537 GMT 38 Mar 86

[Text] Brasilia -- 28 Mar (EFE) -- Fernando Melho, the spokesman for the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, today told EFE that Brazilian relations with Chile are normal. He attributed to the local press the report of an alleged order from President Jose Sarney to "freeze" relations with Pinochet. Raul Schmidt, the new Chilean ambassador, presented his credentials to the Brazilian president on 25 March. On the following day CORREO BRASILIENSE said that the Chilean diplomat will not hold his position for very long.

Referring to a document prepared at some government level, CORREO BRASILIENSE said that Ambassador Schmidt is one of the "hardliners" of the Chilean Foreign Ministry and that he is against human right policies and the solution of the Bolivian maritime problem.

The newspaper reported that the evaluation of the ambassador was disclosed in a press communique delivered along with the ambassador's resume. Planalto Palace denied that it officially distributed the press communique, but it has been learned that an official of the Chilean Embassy was able to get a copy through other channels. Oswaldo Yanes, the spokesman of the Chilean Embassy, told EFE on the telephone that "no public comments will be made."

JORNAL DE BRASILIA also reported that Planalto Palace ordered that relations with Chile "be restricted to the minimum level so long as dictator Augusto Pinochet insists on holding on to power."

SECOND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LAUNCHED

PA290114 Paris AFP in Spanish 0035 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Kourou, French Guiana, 28 Mar (AFP) -- The second Brazilian telecommunications satellite, Brasilsat S-2, was placed today in orbit on the 17th launch of the European rocket Ariane III, an improved model of the Ariane. It was launched from the Kourou Space Center.

Brasilsat must function for 8 years in a geostationary orbit (altitude 36,000 km), which means that it will give the impression of being motionless on a vertical path over the Brazilian-Colombian border (70 degrees longitude west, over the Equator).

This satellite has 24 retransmission channels, equivalent to 12,000 telephone lines or 24 television channels. Brasilsat S-2, which will provide television, telephone, telex, and data transmission services, looks like a huge drum. It weighs 671 kg in orbit and 1,140 kg on earth.

The first such satellite was launched by Ariane on 8 February 1985. The operational center in charge of watching the satellites for as long as they exist, is in Guaratiba, near Rio de Janeiro. The two Brasilsats were built by the Canadian enterprise Star Aerospace Limited. They belong to the Brazilian Telecommunications Enterprise, a Brazilian public enterprise responsible for the development and work of telecommunications services in that country.

The U.S. satellite, Gstar-2, which was put in orbit 2 minutes before the Brasilsat S-2, is the fifth satellite of the GTE Spacenet Society which has been transported by the European rocket since 1984. Its 16 channels can be rented to enterprises for visual conferences. They can also be used for retransmitting information.

DETAILS ON NOBISTOR ARMS CARGO CONFISCATION

PY302209 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT 29 Mar 86

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Mar (EFE) -- According to preliminary reports released today by the Brazilian Federal Police, the Argentine arms cargo that was confiscated on 14 March at the Rio de Janeiro port was intended to equip a rebel movement trying to overthrow the government of Ghana.

Fabio Calheiros Wanderley, the superintendent of the Rio de Janeiro Federal Police, said that the Nobistor was also carrying maps and instructions for an operational attack of several military targets by the rebel group in Accra.

The superintendent did not confirm if the six-ton cargo of machine guns, automatic rifles, grenades, ammunition, communications equipment, and first-aid material was going to be transferred from the Nobistor to a larger ship at high sea, but he indicated that there are indications that such an operation was planned.

The Ghanaian Government alerted Brazilian officials that the arms cargo was going to be transferred to another ship across the Brazilian coast where 80 Ghanaian rebels were waiting.

According to the maps found by the Brazilian police on the Nobistor, the alleged targets of the rebels in Accra were 14 police posts, a military training center, radio and television stations, the Kotoca airport, and the installations of the telecommunication services.

The Rio de Janeiro Federal Police, who are in charge of the investigation, said that the 18 crew members of the Panamanian ship are still being held in police facilities and that the Brazilian Federal Court will have to decide about extradition to Argentina and the United States. The eight U.S. citizens who are members of the crew are Vietnam veterans who were contracted in the United States to protect the cargo until it reached Ghana. The chief of the mercenaries, John Dee Early, said that his mission was to protect the arms until they got to Ghana. The Brazilian police investigators said that apparently the U.S. mercenaries were the ones who decided not to deliver the arms to the rebels on the Buenos Aires-Accra route and to pressure the commander of the Argentine ship, Orlando Galeardoni, to anchor at the Rio de Janeiro port.

DEL VALLE POSTPONES APRIL TRIP TO FAR EAST

PY280226 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has postponed his trip scheduled for next month to Indonesia, Pakistan, and Thailand. The official announcement was made in a Foreign Ministry communique. The note said the trip was postponed because of service obligations and especially so the foreign minister could continue to supervise personally the efforts to respond to the UN special relator [as heard] on human rights.

The communique added that the foreign minister has postponed the trip to take care of other ministerial commitments, including preparations for the visit of the Peruvian foreign minister in May. The visit of Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle to Indonesia, Pakistan, and Thailand was postponed, in common agreement with the countries that invited him, to a later date to be established in the future.

ARMY ON CANCELLATION OF GENERAL'S VISIT TO U.S.

PY280219 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Army has explained that the invitation by the chief of staff of the U.S. Army to Lieutenant General Santiago Sinclair, deputy chief of the Chilean Army, was not rejected. The official Army communique says: In relation to press reports referring to the cancellation of a trip to the United States by the deputy chief of the Chilean Army, the Army Public Relations Department reports the following:

Gen Santiago Sinclair, deputy chief of the Chilean Army, has received an invitation from the chief of staff of the U.S. Army, General John A. Wickham, to visit U.S. military institutions this year as the guest of the U.S. Army. The invitation was made through U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes. [Words indistinct] Gen Sinclair, in a note addressed to the U.S. ambassador, said: It was impossible to accept the invitation because I was recently appointed Army deputy commander, and I thus have a very busy schedule of activities.

The communique adds that the invitation was officially extended in a letter from Gen Wickham and that the letter was answered explaining the reasons for declining the invitation, and expressing appreciation for being invited.

The official Army communique says in conclusion that the invitation was not rejected, that the invitation could have been accepted but was declined for the reasons already explained.

RADICAL PARTY DENIES MARXIST-LENINIST LEANINGS

PY291457 LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 7

[Text] The Radical Party [PR], through its Secretary General Ricardo Navarrete, has denied allegation that the PR is following Marxist-Leninist leanings and that this is the reason behind the Radical Union [UR] rejection of reunification. In this regard, Navarrete said that "the fact that we are holding talks with Marxist forces can in no way link us to that line of political, ideological thinking. Actually, we could perfectly well state that the UR -- who has been holding talks with the government -- shares the totalitarian doctrine that has caused so much damage to the country."

SOCIALIST PARTY DEFINES POSITION ON AD, MDP

PY281350 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] The Socialist Party [PS], one of the parties that makes up the Democratic Alliance [AD], has released a declaration with the main resolutions of the PS Central Committee meeting.

In the resolution the PS defines its position regarding the AD, the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP], and the bloc of socialist parties. The resolution also defines the PS position regarding the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy and the proposals of the Federation of Professional Associations.

Hernan Vodanovic, member of the PS Political Commission, announced the main points of the resolution. The first point refers to the PS policies on alliances.

[Begin recording] It praises the formation of the Political Committee for Social Mobilization and the characteristics agreed upon by the various political forces that make up the committee. This step taken by the opposition is fully appreciated by the PS because it is a basic element for progress in the antidictatorial struggle and because it rejects the useless attitude of excluding other organizations. [end recording]

The PS supports the call to create a National Civic Assembly made by the Federation of Professional Associations and defines its position regarding the National Accord and the AD.

[Begin recording] All the necessary efforts must be made to make the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy an effective tool for the democratization of the country and to insure its operation. To do this the PS will propose to the other parties that make up the AD ideas and actions toward that objective. With this purpose in mind and with the desire to go ahead in the development of the struggle for freedom and the end of the dictatorship, the PS decided to continue to take the necessary steps to help overcome the problems that have obstructed the operation of the AD. [end recording]

In reference to the PS policies regarding the bloc of socialist parties and the MDP, the PS resolution proposes to continue working to achieve a broadest social and political agreement without exclusions.

NEW ORGANIZATION CREATED AS 'SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE'

PY291324 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2352 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- "Socialist Front" president Juan Carlos Moraga today stated that the newly-created "Organization for Liberation and Democracy" (OLD), is "a socialist alternative" to Marxism and social democracy.

In Moraga's opinion, the new movement "emerges as a socialist alternative to the 'Democratic Alliance,' which proposes the reform of capitalism, and to Marxism, which by ideological definition, seeks to establish a proletariat dictatorship in Chile, following the Soviet model."

Moraga stated that the OLD "champions democracy and is clearly opposed to any type of dictatorship, especially the Chilean authoritarian regime."

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY BY 60 DAYS

PY300029 Paris AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (AFP) -- Today the Peruvian Government extended the state of emergency and curfew in the provinces of Lima and Callao for another 60 days, an official source has revealed.

In a speech delivered on 7 February, President Alan Garcia announced the implementation of measures to cope with terrorist actions over the last several days, including the setting of fires in downtown Lima.

MINEWORKERS STRIKE CONTINUES WORSENING

PY291841 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1548 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE) -- The strike being held by workers from six mining districts in the central mountains area continues despite negotiation efforts being conducted by the government and the murder of a mineworker and two trade union leaders.

The mining districts observing the strike are Cerro de Pasco, La Oroya, Morococha, Casapalca, Yaucicocha, and Cobriza, in Junin and Pasco Departments. These districts belong to the state-owned enterprise Centrominperu [Central Peruvian Mining Enterprise].

The stoppage, now over a month old, continues despite the fact that the government has granted a salary increase of $1.90 per day, stating that it could not grant further increases because of its anti-inflationary policy and Centrominperu's economic situation.

Even though the negotiations held over the past 2 days between the mineworkers trade union leaders and Centrominperu have not been successful, the mineworkers are not giving up hope for a more substantial salary increase.

Civil Guard Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Flores has reported that the situation has become more serious after two powerful bombs were detonated this morning in the town of San Juan, near Cerro de Pasco.

Centrominperu's metalworkers and mineworkers, who total some 17,000 workers, yesterday decided to reject their representatives and demanded that the latter explain their "deceitful" attitude concerning the decisions made on the economic claims.

Police have arrested a suspect in the murder of mineworker union leader Abel Estrella, who was killed on 27 March. Earlier, a worker, identified as Julio Huaranga, was stabbed to death. In addition, mineworkers union leader Tomas Miranda, who was one of signatories to the arrangement that granted an increase of $1.90 daily, was shot to death on 19 March on his way to a meeting.

Meanwhile, 11 Centrominperu workers and Deputy David de la Sota today continued their 7-day hunger strike which they are holding at the Congress building in Lima to press the government on the petitions made by the mineworkers of the central Peruvian mountainous area.

NICARAGUAN, USSR ENVOYS ON U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

PA282117 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 14

[By Jorge Ochoa]

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan Ambassador Edmundo Jarquin Calderon and Soviet Ambassador Rostislav Sergeyev yesterday expressed their enthusiasm over the U.S. Congress' rejection of the request to finance the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. Interviewed at the end of the ceremony to render posthumous tribute to former Foreign Secretary Antonio Carrillo Fores, the Nicaraguan diplomat nevertheless said that he was discouraged that the debate among the U.S. legislators was limited only "to the means and not the objectives of the policy."

Meanwhile, Rostislav Sergeyev said that the Soviet Union will follow the development of the events and he reiterated that his country's position is that of clear respect for Central America: "Our position is that of helping the activities of the Contadora Group to eliminate the threat of war in the region."

Jarquin said that whether or not the $100 million or any other sum is approved to help the contras, this is just part of the problem, because the fundamental aspect is that the U.S. Congress does not have any right to be discussing the fate of an independent and sovereign country. The mere fact that there is a discussion, he said, involves a case of the threat of the use of force, which is categorically prohibited by international law. This, he said, is a violation of international law. He insisted that the use of a threat is prohibited. Neither of the results compromises us, but the threat continues.

The Soviet ambassador was more terse in his comments, and he said that it is a special topic that is a domestic issue of the U.S. people and their government. Nevertheless, he added, we have noticed that there is a disagreement between the Reagan administration and the U.S. people. The aggressive position of the government with regard to the Central American problems is not favorably viewed by all its fellow citizens. Even so, we know that the U.S. Government continues its intense policy of oppression against Nicaragua. We will see what the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress will do in the next few weeks. We know, he added, what the roots of this conflict are. They are the same ones as those of the island of Haiti, Cuba until 1959, and Nicaragua until 1979. They are well-known roots: the deep economic and social underdevelopment of those peoples and the lack of education in Central America.

There are two problems: political security and economic security of those states. Obviously in this regard, the Central American countries need the help of several countries of the world. We believe that the Soviet proposal voiced in the 27th CPSU Congress about calling a world congress on the problems of economic security is very important. We support the pacification actions in the area and that is why we are concerned about the negative and aggressive U.S. intentions against Nicaragua.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS TO MEET 4 APRIL

PA302014 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Text] The vice presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica will meet at a San Jose hotel on 4 April at the request of Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. It was reported that the idea for the meeting responds to the reactivation of trade in the Central American region. Costa Rican Vice President Armando Arauz Aguilar will head the event.

Vice President-elect Jorge Manuel Dengo has been invited to this meeting. The vice president of Nicaragua will be absent, because it is difficult to have a harmonious meeting with the neighbors to the north.

The meeting of Central American vice presidents conceals aggressive intentions against Nicaragua, President Daniel Ortega has said. Monge immediately rejected this statement, saying that this meeting is not aimed at discussing political matters, because that topic is reserved for the Esquipulas meeting which will soon be held in Guatemala. Monge stressed that that meeting will be used by Central American Presidents to discuss the pacification of the region.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON CAMPOS' BORDER ZONE STATEMENT

PA300255 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 24 Mar 86 p 4A

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that the statement made yesterday by Deputy Security Minsiter Colonel Johnny Campos Loaiza that the Contadora Group is promoting a demilitarized zone on the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua was due to an erroneous interpretation of documents.

The foreign minister admitted however, that the Contadora deputy foreign ministers did present a document at the meeting held on 12 March between representatives of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Gutierrez said: "I read that report, and I did not see any mention of a demilitarized zone. This could possibly by Johnny's interpretation, because the text of the document does not refer to the matter as does the deputy security minister."

According to Col Campos Loaiza, the Contadora Group is promoting the establishment of a demilitarized zone along the border between the two countries. The zone would be under the control of an international force. He said this is unacceptable for our nation. He said that such a situation was set forth in a document not discussed during the 12 March meeting. The plan reportedly calls for a 2-km-wide demilitarized zone in each of the two territories.

Gutierrez said that the statements by Campos Loaiza caught his attention because when he spoke with Contadora deputy ministers at a luncheon, they stated a position close to the one "I established in my speech to open the meeting."

On that occasion Gutierrez said that Costa Rica will not permit demilitarized zones along the border region.

Meanwhile, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias announced in Brasilia that Uruguay is prepared to form part of a future watch commission along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. He cautioned that the participation of Uruguay will be within the framework of the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

ARIAS' POSITION ON UPCOMING CONTADORA MEETING

PA301449 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto [title as published] will represent President-elect Oscar Arias at the upcoming meeting of the Contadora Group with the foreign ministers of Central America and the Support Group, which is to be held in Panama on 4 and 5 April.

Arias gave instructions to Madrigal Nieto to participate in the meeting. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez also said that the future minister will be a member of the Costa Rican delegation.

Madrigal Nieto will thus make his first contact with his future colleagues of Central America and the Contadora Group, as well as with those of the Support Group (Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay).

The following are the salient points of Arias' position, which Madrigal Nieto will explain at the meeting of the 13 foreign ministers on Contadora Island.

1. The Contadora Group must immediately decide on the signing of the Act for the Pacification and Cooperation of Central America.

2. Nicaragua must decide if it is going to participate in an internal dialogue.

3. The Contadora Group -- which is already 3 years and 3 months old -- must state if it supports the positions of the four democratic Central American countries (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica).

4. The Contadora Group must "land" [aterrizar] or complete its work with the act and demand that all the countries share equally the responsibilities inherent in the document.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ARIAS ANNOUNCES DEPUTY MINISTERS

PA300229 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 4 A

[Text] President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez yesterday announced the names of the 18 deputy ministers who will assume office on 8 May. The announcement was made during a ceremony at Hotel Coricibi, which was attended by Vice President-elect Victoria Garron de Doryan, the ministers-designate, and the deputies of the National Liberal Party [PLN] bloc, who will assume their duties on 1 May.

The designated deputy ministers are:

Foreign relations: Carlos Rivera Bianchini, who is currently a deputy and head of the PLN bloc.

Presidency: Luis Alberto Cordero Arias, who worked with Arias' team during the election camapaign.

Housing and urban development: Ofelia Taitelbaum Joselewich.

Treasury: Rebeca Grynspan. Ms Grynspan will assume office within 6 months because she had a baby 5 weeks ago. In the meantime, Edgar Gutierrez, the incumbent deputy minister, will continue in this position.

Planning: Sandra Pizk, who worked at Presidential House during the inception of the present administration.

Economy, industry, and commerce: Antonio Burges Teran, who is currently a consultant with the firm Desarrollo Moderno de Empresas.

Energy and mines: Jorge Monge, the incumbent deputy minister, was confirmed in this post.

Foreign trade: Rodrigo Barahona Israel, who is currently a Central Bank director.

Agriculture and livestock: Osvaldo Pandolfo Rimolo, who works in this office.

Health: Victor Julio Brenes.

Public works and transport: Luis Llach Cordero, who is assistant chief of the Electrical Planning Directorate [Direccion de Planificacion Electrica] of the Costa Rican Electricity Institute.

Culture, youth, and sports: Actress Adriana Mimi Prado.

Education: Guillermo Araya.

Public Security: Colonel Rogelio Castro Pinto.

Government: Alvaro Ramos Rechnitz.

Justice: Eugenia Zamora, who, at age 29, will be the youngest deputy minister.

Science and technology: Eduardo Doryan.

Labor and social security: Luis Fernando Vargas.

Before making the announcements, Arias said that there are many men and women who have the qualifications and talent to hold these and other posts but that there was no room for all.

He asserted that all the appointees have in common the will to serve Costa Rica. He noted that all of them are "very competent professionals who represent a new generation and whose median age is 35 years."

EDITORIAL VIEWS U.S. HOUSE VOTE ON CONTRA AID

PA292234 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 14 A

[Editorial: "A Bad Step"]

[Excerpts] In rejecting President Ronald Reagan's request for $100 million in military and humanitarian aid for the anti-Sandinist rebels this past Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives took a bad step. Contrary to what many people opposed to the assistance had said, the voting denying such an assistance by 12 votes will serve to encourage the military option in the Nicaraguan conflict and will make democratic evolution in that country more costly.

It is a shame that because of the dynamics of U.S. domestic policy, the lobbying of the Sandinists in the Capitol, and the lack of vision that many congressmen have on international matters, the U.S. representatives have been unable to realize what the true situation is.

But there is still time for the House of Representatives to rectify its position. This depends to a great extent on what the Central Americans do. If the Sandinists do not respond to the simultaneous negotiations proposal made by President Duarte, then Duarte as well as the other chiefs of state of the area who have supported him should promptly denounce the lack of interest of the commanders and ask the U.S. Congress to change its attitude and its voting. Otherwise, the consequences will be paid for not only by the Nicaraguans under the dictatorship or in exile but also by all the other Central American people, who will be unable to maintain a stable democracy so long as there is a totalitarian and expansionist military power in their midst.

EL SALVADOR

VENCEREMOS CRITICIZES HONDURAN AID ACCEPTANCE

PA300347 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] At first the Honduran Government and Army denied the alleged Sandinist incursion into Honduran territory, but, as we had foreseen, the offer of $20 million to Azcona and the Honduran Army chief was enough for them to accept the lie fabricated at Rambo Reagan's desk.

In his desperation to keep the disbanded Somozist forces going for a few more months, Rambo Reagan has demonstrated a most barefaced lack of morals in his race to get the famous $100 million. Azcona and the military chiefs will fatten their bank accounts with the $20 million that Rambo Reagan is delivering to them. However, they have clumsily admitted before the world what they had been steadfastly denying -- that the Somozist mercenary forces have bases and receive supplies in Honduras.

However, while Azcona and the unworthy military sell out Honduras' sovereignty, the conscience of the Hondruan people is maturing and a national feeling of a patriotism is growing against the AIDS-carrying Yankees and the Somozists who constantly commit crimes against the Honduran people. As we had reported, a few days ago a priest became a new victim of the Somozist bands [word indistinct] by Rambo Reagan.

Honduras is awakening. Our peoples have not been born to kneel or to be humbled.

HONDURAS

AZCONA MEETS WITH REGALADO ON BORDER SITUATION

PA292304 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2030 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Today President Jose Azcona Hoyo met in his vacation home with General Humberto Regalado, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, it was learned in this capital. The reason for the meeting was not given officially, but it is likely that it is due to the tense situation prevailing on the border with Nicaragua.

The border region has been the scene of fierce fighting for several days which, according to Tegucigalpa, is taking place between Sandinist and Honduran troops, and according to Managua it is between Nicaraguan troops and contras.

A Honduran military spokesman announced today that since last Thursday the EPS has sustained 200 dead, although he did not report the number of Honduran casualties and, on the contrary, he claimed that they have found the bodies of 40 contras in the region.

Honduras officially denies the existence of anti-Sandinist camps, despite the fact that they have been visited by reporters on various occasions.

The meeting between Azcona and Gen Regalado took place in the city of Puerto Cortes, 300 km north of Tegucigalpa, which is where Azcona Hoyo and his family spend Easter week vacations.

Azcona Hoyo, it was learned today, will arrive in this capital tomorrow and on Monday he might hold a press conference to explain the situation with Nicaragua.

200 SANDINISTS KILLED, 19 CAPTURED IN CLASHES

PA291627 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1603 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Approximately 200 Sandinist soldiers have been killed and 19 have been captured in Honduran territory following intense battles with Honduran Armed Forces troops in Honduras' eastern region on the border with Nicaragua. This was reported to ACAN-EFE today by a high-ranking Honduran Army officer who requested that he remain unidentified.

He added that 40 Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who are fighting against the Managua government could also have died in the clashes. Since Thursday afternoon the Sandinist units have apparently begun to return to their country, but individually there are some members in Honduran territory who, the source added, "are being tracked by our soldiers."

According to the Honduran Armed Forces, Sandinist troops entered Honduran territory in pursuit of Nicaraguan contras on 17 March.

EPS CASUALTIES 'MIGHT BE OVER 700 DEAD'

PA291936 Paris AFP in Spanish 1805 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 29 Mar (AFP) -- A Holy Week of heavy armed clashes between the EPS and insurgent and Honduran forces along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border has left a toll of hundreds of dead, according to military sources stationed in the conflict area.

According to these reports, about 700 Sandinists were killed when most of them fell into a trap in Honduran territory.

According to U.S. officers and residents of the area, the clashes began on Saturday, 22 March, but Colonel [Danilo] Carbajal [chief of the Honduran troops transferred to Capire] said that by 19 March [date as received], Sandinist soldiers had already machine-gunned a military helicopter in Honduran territory, which managed to land. The crew was not injured.

The officer stated that the Honduran Army "has not suffered any casualties," although a peasant from the area of Espanol Grande, north of Capire, said that "there are dead on all sides."

According to Col Carbajal, the purpose of those incursions was to bring subversive elements into Honduras, because this time "they followed the same route" of Dr Jose Reyes, who in August 1984 entered Olancho with a column of about 200 guerrillas who were wiped out 1 month later.

Col Carbajal said that "it is not possible for the time being to determine the EPS casualties," but one officer stationed at Capire told AFP on Thursday that "there might be over 700 dead."

Likewise, a military source at Cifuentes, in the border area of El Paraiso, said that approximately 700 Sandinists were wiped out "probably when they fell into a trap" after entering Honduran territory and being surrounded by an insurgent column coming from Nicaragua, in the area near Espanol Grande, Arenales, about 6 km from the border.

Other sources said that the Honduran troops also blocked their passage, but Col Carbajal said that was "a false alarm."

Another military source in Tegucigalpa told AFP yesterday that "over 200 Sandinist soldiers were killed during 4 attacks launched last Sunday," against the Military Training Center (CIM) of the contras, about 2 km from the town of Llamales, 15 km inside Honduran territory. During the attacks, he added, "about 40" contras were killed.

The source explained that the 200 EPS troops killed "refers only to the actions taking place in Llamales and does not include the casualties in other clashes." He said, however, that 150 Sandinists were wounded in all the clashes.

He said that 2 other groups of 400 Sandinists each entered on Sunday the Las Vegas area, in the same area of Espanol Grande, staying there 2 days and clashing with the rebels, although the number of casaulties was not given.

The source refuted the statements made by President Daniel Ortega to the effect that the EPS had destroyed the "CIM," in Nicaraguan territory, "because the center operates in Honduras, and all of the attacks failed," he pointed out.

To date 16 Sandinist troops have been taken prisoner, according to the sources; 2 of those men were presented to journalists in Tegucigalpa. They said they had been captured inside Honduran territory.

REBEL GROUPS REPORTEDLY SIGHTED IN NORTHERN REGION

PA291216 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1707 GMT 28 Mar 86

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- This weekend special Honduran Army troops are looking for a group of armed men who have reportedly been sighted by peasants near the community of Esparta. The search is being conducted by troops of the 4th Infantry Battalion headquartered in the port city of La Ceiba, in northern Honduras, with help from light planes of the Honduran Air Force.

According to reports from the area, there are groups of armed men in some remote and mountainous areas. Some of the local residents are fearful and claim they are "subversive elements."

An officer of the 4th Infantry Battalion, who asked to remain anonymous, said that soldiers from his battalion are combing all of the mountain area and do not rule out the possibility that "guerrilla cells" have gone into the jungle. The number of persons comprising the armed groups is unknown. The soldiers have searched homes in several towns but have not captured any subversive thus far.

The reports have been made following the charge raised a few days ago in Washington and Tegucigalpa that 1,500 Sandinist soldiers crossed the border on 17 March and entered Honduran territory.

In Yoro Department, bordering on Atlantida Department, the Honduran and U.S. Armies are holding military maneuvers and some minor training exercises. The Honduran Army has a large number of Specialized Jungle and Night Operation Troops (TESON) as well as mountain soldiers who are used in some cases to track down suspected rebels.

Since 1982 Honduran soldiers have been receiving training in joint maneuvers with U.S. forces. Currently major maneuvers and small training exercises are being held across the country together with approximately 4,500 U.S. soldiers. The maneuvers currently under way are: "Terencio Sierra-86," in Yoro Department; "Tosta-86" in the southern, central, and eastern regions; and the "Cabanas-86" maneuvers in the Mosquitia area, in eastern Honduras, and at the border with Nicaragua.

A number of guerrilla cells that appeared 2 years ago in Olancho Department were eliminated by Honduran troops. Similar operations have been carried out in southern Honduras and other regions.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA DISCUSSES CONTRAS, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL VOTES

PA281945 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1659 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Press conference by President Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto with unidentified reporters in Managua; broadcast in progress -- live]

[Text] [Ortega] ... we, Nicaragua, had not wanted to discuss the debate itself in both the lower and higher chambers. Neither had we wanted to refer to the fact that the vote in the lower chamber was against the U.S. President's proposal and that now the vote in the higher chamber is favorable to the U.S. President's proposal (?or) to the different opinions voiced in the U.S. Congress. We have not referred to this, nor will we do so today because we insist that what is at stake here is the U.S. foreign policy. The United States is either going to respect the established legal order in the world or impose its own law, which is the law of the jungle, the law of force, the law of the strongest. That is what is really at issue in the United States when the best way to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution is debated. Some concerns are voiced regarding the direct involvement of U.S. troops in combat in Nicaragua because U.S. youths will die, but not because Nicaraguan youths are also going to die as they are doing right now, thanks to the U.S. Government terrorist policy.

It is truly significant that this week, when our Christian people celebrate Holy Week, the week when Jesus Christ was crucified, the U.S. Senate approved on the night of Maundy Thursday, one day before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday, the crucifixion of Nicaragua.

We are not just looking at the financing of the mercenary forces. We do not believe that is the most serious thing, whether they approve $100 million or $500 million. We do not think that is the most serious thing. In reality, the most serious thing is that we are already facing what is the Vietnamization of the struggle in Central America. In other words, the United States, President Reagan, have been taking concrete steps that directly involve U.S. forces, U.S. troops in support of the mercenary forces. The most serious thing that has taken place in these last few days has been the use of U.S. helicopters that are piloted by U.S. pilots of the U.S. Air Force who are in Honduran territory. These helicopters have been used to transport the Honduran Army to the border with Nicaragua, a border that is extremely conflictive and tense because the mercenary bands are in Honduran territory and from there they launch their attacks, their incursions, and their invasions against our country.

We see how the U.S. Government involves its military forces and prominent military chiefs such as Mr Galvin, chief of the Southern Command, who has been there on the site, directing these operations when there has been no problem between Honduras and Nicaragua. There has been no combat between Honduras and Nicaragua. Instead, the battles have been between our Army, defending Nicaragua's sovereignty and integrity, and the mercenary forces that have their camps in Honduras and who try to enter our territory.

Because we have been hitting the mercenary forces hard in the last few days, because their main bases, including the main training center of the mercenary forces, have been destroyed, the North Americans have desperately rushed to pressure the Honduran Government to invent a story of Nicaraguan aggression against Honduras, to see how they can involve Honduras in a confrontation with Nicaragua, and since this has not been possible, they have begun to transport Honduran troops to the border region for the purpose of deploying a U.S. force which will defend the mercenary forces. The U.S. helicopters with U.S. soldiers and officers are there transporting the Honduran forces. With this they are trying to prevent the annihilation of the mercenary forces by our troops. At the same time they are trying to give the international image that Nicaragua is invading Honduras, that Nicaragua is attacking Honduras. We believe that is the most serious event in recent days. It is the involvement of U.S. troops in Honduras. It is the involvement of U.S. war materiel, such as the U.S. helicopters in Honduras, in operations to support the mercenary forces that have their bases and camps in Honduras. Unquestionably, to the extent that the U.S. Army with its helicopters, its military advisers -- that is another measure that President Reagan has announced; he is going to involve military advisers on the site -- to the extent that it involves U.S. militarymen in support of the mercenary forces, the U.S. officers, the U.S. military advisers, and the U.S. helicopters will be running the same risks as the mercenary forces. Therefore, we should not be surprised if tomorrow a U.S. helicopter were to be downed by our combatants and if U.S. officers and U.S. military advisers were to be killed.

The responsibility will fall on them because they are getting involved in an aggressive and disrespectful manner that violates international law, because they are getting increasingly more directly involved in the conflict in support of the mercenary forces. The mercenary forces are simply being defeated by our combatants. The mercenary forces are being hit hard by our combatants.

To the extent that the mercenary forces are being defeated, the United States is making great efforts to involve Honduras in a confrontation with Nicaragua, and since Honduras is not doing so, then it is directly getting involved with its resources. We think this is the most serious thing. Of course, there is the Senate approval. It indicates to us that the two chambers are going to approve some type of aid for the mercenary forces. That would be logical. However, the Senate did not reject Reagan's proposal to effectively support Latin America's call to respect the peace efforts of Contadora and the Lima Groups so that the conflict will be resolved through peaceful means. A dialogue between the United States and Nicaragua was called for. The U.S. Senate was not receptive to this. The vote margin was very close: 50 is the average. [sentence as heard] President Reagan's proposal obtained three votes over that. President Reagan's proposal won by three votes. However, it won. What does this mean? That the trend in the U.S. Congress continues to be to strengthen the U.S. Government's terrorist policy in Central America. Because the mercenary forces have no future -- even if U.S. advisers arrive there; even if U.S. air means are used to attempt to protect these mercenary forces -- the Congress is committing itself to a policy of intervention in Nicaragua. That is why we said that the latest steps that were taken are following the trend that was followed during the Vietnam conflict. That is very grave.

We emphatically reject President Reagan's policy and the action taken by the U.S. Senate, which has rubberstamped this policy. Once again we urge the U.S. Congress to act wisely. We urge the President of the United States to act wisely so that we may seek a peaceful solution to the conflict. We continue to be willing to enter into talks with the United States. We are willing to seek a framework for understanding, aware of the concerns the United States has concerning its security in the area and of Nicaragua's own concerns regarding its security in the area. We are not willing to discuss our domestic situation with the United States or anyone else. This is up to Nicaragua to decide. The Nicaraguan people decide the kind of political, social, and economic system Nicaragua has. They are already doing that in the context of the drafting of the constitution. We are not willing to enter into a dialogue with the instruments of aggression used by the U.S. Government; with those it likes to characterize as the leaders of the counterrevolution. We are not willing to speak with these people. We will never enter into talks with these people. There is an amnesty here. These people can take shelter under it. As long as they refuse to do that there will be no possibility for dialogue. We will never enter into talks with them. Our answer will be given in the field that I have said: the military field. As we have said, we are willing to enter into talks with the chief of the counterrevolutionary forces, who has described himself as a contra: the President of the United States. We are willing to hold a dialogue with him.

Today we sent a letter -- it is signed by the foreign minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto -- to the Contadora Group and the Lima Group. In it we stress the serious turn the situation has taken, due to the United States' involvement to defend the mercenary forces in and from Honduran territory; due to President Reagan's decision to involve military advisers to support the mercenary forces; and due to the U.S. Senate's vote, which confirms that trend toward intervention against Nicaragua. We have urged the Contadora and Lima Groups to address these issues as soon as possible. We believe they are the most sensitive issues in the escalation that is taking place despite Nicaragua's desire for peace; despite the desire for peace shared by the governments who are members of the Contadora and Lima Groups. This escalation must be dealt with. It must be stopped. In the proposal we made 2 or 3 days ago we insisted on the need to create an oversight and control force in the border territory between Honduras and Nicaragua. We made this proposal 2 or 3 days ago to the Contadora and Lima Groups in view of the tensing of the situation at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. We hope this is also one the main issues that will be discussed during the meeting that will held within the next several days in Panama with the Contadora Group and representatives of the Central American Governments.

We are therefore faced with military aggression directed by the President of the United States. We are also facing a policy of commitment with President Reagan's policy on the part of the U.S. Congress, which tends to yield to President Reagan's policy, to accept it. We are therefore faced with a violation of international law by the United States. As things stand, Nicaragua will continue to defend its sovereignty and self-determination. If U.S. military advisers or helicopters -- or whatever -- become involved in supporting the mercenary forces, they will be running the same risks the mercenary forces that invade our country and stage incursions in Nicaragua are facing, because there is the willingness and determination to fight the mercenary forces and those who are directly supporting those terrorist actions against Nicaragua.

That is what we wanted to say after having learned during these past few days about the grave tensions that have arisen at the border, where the mercenary forces have again attempted to stage incursions to impress the U.S. Congress and Senate [as heard], and where they have sustained severe blows from our forces.

We also wanted to discuss the vote in the U.S. Senate. I am open to your questions.

[Question] [Words indistinct] are you aware of this? When will you meet with him?

[Ortega] We have no report that Mr Habib is coming to Nicaragua. We have no report on that.

[Question] Mr President, you have said you will not enter into talks with the counter-revolution. President Reagan has established that as the condition to put an end to his aggression. He has also said he does not want to speak with you because he is not the leader of the contras. Tension has increased. War is escalating. Are you willing to come to terms with any kind of military escalation without yielding any ground at all?

[Ortega] Our position is just, logical, and reasonable. Who can doubt that the U.S. Government is the leader of the counterrevolution? Who can doubt that the U.S. President is the leader of the counterrevolution? Every day he makes speeches asking for support for his terrorist policy against Nicaragua. He is requesting support for the mercenary forces he has sent to fight against the Nicaraguan people. Our proposal is logical. That is why we maintain that our willingness to enter into talks with President Reagan implies getting to the root of the problem. The counterrevolution exists to the extent that President Reagan decides that it should exist, to the extent that President Reagan establishes policy against Nicaragua.

Therefore, the dialogue must be with President Reagan, who is obsessed with Nicaragua. We have to see how we can hold a dialogue with him so that the situation can be overcome. Meanwhile, we will be involved in that confrontation with him obsessed, hounding, and attacking the Nicaraguan people and the Nicaraguan people defending themselves. We will have no other choice but to defend ourselves. We are ready to continue to defend ourselves from the U.S. aggression, from President Reagan's policy.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from the LIBERATION newspaper of Paris. Mr President, yesterday's Defense Ministry communique mentioned the destruction of the main contra training center. Can you tell us where that center is located? How many troops were involved, and when did this take place?

[Ortega] Well, we have involved all the troops that we believed it was necessary to involve. The confrontations have taken place in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory. That training center in that territory was destroyed.

[Question] Exactly where was that center located?

[Ortega] In the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory.

[Question] Excuse me, but you just said that the counterrevolution has had its bases inside Honduras, and for at least 2 years the Sandinist government has insisted that there are no counterrevolutionary training centers inside Nicaragua. Therefore, aren't you admitting that you entered Honduran territory to destroy that camp?

[Ortega] Well, the only thing that we know is that a large portion of Honduran territory has been occupied by the mercenary forces. Honduras has been gradually losing its sovereignty over portions of its territory as the mercenary forces have slowly taken over in response to the U.S. Government's decision. The mercenary forces launch attacks from there against Nicaragua and all of that has become a war zone. The border territory becomes a war zone thanks to the U.S. policy that is stealing territory from Honduras and handing it to the mercenary forces.

Precisely yesterday, when a propaganda operation was set up with U.S. helicopters and U.S. officers showing their weapons, etc., and when they left with a big group of reporters to fly over the zone, it was shown that the counterrevolutionary camps are there in Honduras. The reporters saw these camps from the helicopters. They saw the counterrevolutionary camps. They did not see Sandinist troops in Honduran territory. What they saw were the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory.

[Question] Mr President, I think there is confusion about the battles. The Reagan administration has presented the events as perhaps a defeat for the Sandinist forces that waged that battle. Last night's communique presented the events in a different way. Can you tell us the results of the battle? Second, I imagine your intelligence must have had knowledge about the location of those bases for some time. Why did you decide that this was the opportune moment to launch this attack?

[Ortega] First, we insist that there has not been confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua. In other words, Nicaragua has not attacked Honduras. Proof of this is that on Sunday, precisely the day when the United States began the campaign saying that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras, I spoke on the telephone with Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo. I spoke with him about the next Central American meeting, and we also discussed the situation on the border. There was nothing special or significant to mention. In other words, there has not been an act of aggression by Nicaragua against Honduras.

Now then, this is very tense territory. We were explaining that this territory has been occupied by the United States with the mercenary forces. It is in Honduras on the border with Nicaragua. From there, the mercenary forces try to enter, to carry out incursions into our territory. We have done nothing but carry out defensive operations in that border territory. We have carried out defensive operations to defend ourselves from those who attack us. In those defensive operations, we have destroyed and occupied the main training center of the mercenary forces. Other camps were also destroyed. When Mr Cruz, Mr Robelo, or Mr Bermudez [counterrevolutionary leaders] appear photographed in those camps they said that these camps were located in Nicaraguan territory. When Mr Cruz, Mr Robelo, and Mr Calero put on their uniforms

They say that the camps are in Nicaraguan territory. Well, those camps were destroyed and occupied by our troops. Some of the transportation means they had there, including a helicopter, were also destroyed.

The number of casualties suffered by the mercenary forces is over 600 men, including dead and wounded. The number of casualties that we suffered during those operations was 153. Of these, 40 heroic combatants of our Army were killed in combat. The rest were wounded. Five comrades are missing; two of them have shown up in the hands of the Honduran military authorities who presented them to the national and foreign press in that country.

Therefore, we are simply defending ourselves; we are carrying out operations in defense of our country as we have been doing for a long time. As long as there has been counterrevolution, we have been defending our country and carrying out military operations to defend our country. We will defend our country in the border territory so that the mercenary forces will not advance a single inch into our territory.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] No, I was explaining that it is not that we chose a specific moment, but that we permanently maintain actions in defense of our country.

[Question -- in Portuguese] Carlos (?Cardoze), Mozambique News Agency. Following your victory, the Sandinist government did not execute the Somozist guards. Is the president sorry he did not execute them?

[Ortega] No, we are not sorry we did not execute the Somozist gurads, because, after all, Reagan would have hired other mercenaries to attack our country. Besides, it is a policy of principle, and we have defended that; we are not sorry we did not do it. That is why we keep the doors open to amnesty, so they can resort to amnesty, if they -- if these Nicaraguans who due to their backwardness, deformation, and many other reasons some of them have been kidnapped -- have been forced into counter-revolutionary armed action.

[Question -- in English] Mr President, Dennis Murphy, NBC news. When the mapmakers of the world define political boundaries, they draw lines. They do not talk about war zones, or (?lost) sovereignty. The line that the mapmakers draw, did Nicaraguan soldiers cross that or not?

[Unidentified translator] He says that when the mapmakers of the world draw their maps, they do not draw war zones, but only draw boundaries dividing the two countries. Thus, the question is if Nicaragua, the EPS forces, crossed the geographic boundary between Nicaragua and Honduras.

[Ortega] All I can say is that the mercenary forces who are on Honduran territory -- financed by the U.S. Government, advised by the U.S. Government -- are the ones who are crossing from Honduran territory into our territory to murder our people, destroy the people's property such as schools, health centers; they murder children, women. Our forces are only defending themselves at the border area and will continue defending themselves in the border area from those incursions.

The important thing is that we are not violating any principle. The one who is violating the principle of respect for territory, the sovereignty of a nation is the United States by following a policy that establishes mercenaries in Honduran territory in order for them to invade Nicaragua and violate the Nicaraguan border.

That policy is violating Nicaragua's right to its self-determination; its independence, its borders, its territorial rights are at stake.

[Question] Comander Ortega, Oscar Alvarez, of Radio Sandino. Will there be an effort on the part of Nicaragua to convoke the UN Security Council in the face of the seriousness of the situation?

[Ortega] First of all, we are convoking a meeting of the Contadora and Lima Groups. We are calling upon Latin America to take over [asuma] this serious situation, to forestall this warmongering escalation of the U.S. Government, and so we will advance the proposal made by Nicaragua that a verification and control commission be established in the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area. This verification and control commission should be made up of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group countries.

[Question] President Ortega, do you have any plans to continue with this type of operation along the so-called war zone in the border area?

[Ortega] So long as there is an aggressive force trying to invade our territory, we will continue defending our territory and will defend it from that border line.

[Question] Joseph Contreras, NEWSWEEK magazine. Mr President, in order to better locate the area affected in recent days: When the Defense Ministry communique speaks of the destruction of the main training camp, is it referring to the camp near the towns of Yamales and Capire, that some of my colleagues have visited?

[Ortega] We are specifically referring to operations carried out on the border areas, where we have seriously damaged the main bases of the mercenary forces.

[Contreras] Then these are not the camps near these two towns?

[Ortega] What we know is that, and I repeat: When Mr Cruz, or Mr Robelo, or this Mr Calero, or Bermudez appeared in some camps, they insist these camps are in Nicaraguan territory. We also know that the Honduran Government denies, has denied that there are any such camps in Honduras. Then if these camps do not exist in Honduras, this means the clashes are taking place in Nicaragua.

[Question] Roberto Agudo, of Cuban television. Comrade President, undoubtedly the Central American situation cannot be isolated from the rest of the world. You can give your opinion, but there are some opinions to the effect that there is a coincidence of this situation that the United States is provoking right now against Nicaragua with what happened in Libya, that is, the movements and aggressions against the Libyan people, precisely to seek a solution that, let us say, will favor the Senate vote and prepare U.S. public opinion for more future, more direct aggressions of the United States against Nicaragua.

[Ortega] Yes, I insist in pointing out that President Reagan's policy is reflected here in Central America; it is reflected in Nicaragua, and it also is reflected against the sovereignty of the Libyan people. It is a policy to be imposed by force, ignoring international law, ignoring the respect there should be among nations. That is the most serious part. We are confronted with a policy that jeopardizes the security of the world itself.

When U.S. military forces carry out these operations in the Gulf of Sidra, and the situation there is made tense because the Libyan people feel they are being attacked, and simultaneously the U.S. President launches into his campaign against Nicaragua and launches into this military escalation against Nicaragua by moving forces, by helping the mercenary forces, by using U.S. military means and forces to help the mercenary forces, then we are confronted with a policy that jeopardizes the peoples' security in any part of the world, in any region of the world. It not only jeopardizes the security of the Libyan people, of the Nicaraguan people, but it also jeopardizes regional security. The Nicaraguan problem is a problem that goes beyond the Nicaraguan people; it is a problem that jeopardizes the regional security, it jeopardizes Latin America. The U.S. aggression against Libya is also a policy that not only jeopardizes the security of Libya, but it also jeopardizes the security of all the countries in that area, including the allies of the United States themselves. Thus, we think that we must forestall that policy. International opinion must forestall it; the UN Security Council must forestall it; and we are forestalling it by calling upon the Latin American countries, the Contadora Group and the Lima Group, in the first place.

[Question] Mr President; Ronnie Lopez of CBS. Sir, several days ago Commander Joaquin Cuadra held a press conference to discuss the situation. His vocabulary was different from that you are using now. He spoke about combat strictly inside Nicaragua. There was no mention of war zone or border zones. What is the reason for the change in terms? Second: Was there an attempt by the Sandinist Army -- as part of its military strategy -- to deal a sharp blow to counterrevolution to further lower its morale before any further aid reached it?

[Ortega] There is no contradiction between the statement by Commander Cuadra and the one I am making now. Keep in mind we have held constant meetings over the past several days with Defense Minister Humberto Ortega and with Commander Cuadra -- before and after he held that press conference. We followed his press conference and did not hear any contradiction with what we are saying now.

I repeat: Nicaragua has not attacked Honduras. Nicaragua is defending itself from attacks launched from Honduras by the mercenary forces that the United States has entrenched there. That is what Nicaragua is doing: defending itself. That is a legitimate right Nicaragua will continue to use. The most intense clashes are on the border. That is only natural, because the counterrevolution, under the CIA and the Pentagon's direction, has attempted to stage spectacular blows these days while the U.S. Congress was holding its deliberations.

They concentrated forces in Honduras and thrust them against our country. That means that the clashes are stronger and more intense on the border.

[Question] Lucia Newman of CNN. I would like to go back to something you said before, in the sense that if U.S. troops, helicopters, and pilots become involved to help the counterrevolutionaries they will also die because you will defend yourselves. Does that imply that if a U.S. helicopter flown by an American crew flies near the border on the Honduran side of the border, it will be downed?

[Ortega] If it crosses into our territory and attacks us it will be downed.

[Newman] Even if it is on the Honduran side of the border?

[Ortega] Not while they are on the Honduran side. However, imagine the risk a U.S. helicopter takes when it flies over an area of conflict, with mercenary forces on the Honduran side and Nicaraguan forces on the Nicaraguan side of the border.

[Newman] That means they run the risks....

[Ortega, interrupting] They run the risk that the contras themselves will down them.

[Question] Mr President, I believe you have enunciated a new concept or opinion on the border here. You said Honduras has gradually lost its sovereignty over occupied territory. When did you determine they lost sovereignty over that territory? Have you advised the Honduran Government of this concept?

[Ortega] This is not new. We have been saying this for a long time. It is not the first time we have said that Honduras is losing its sovereignty, its control over the territory that is occupied by the mercenary forces. This has also been reported in Honduras. The Honduran people are always protesting the way in which the mercenary forces' presence is affecting the lives of the Honduran people. The mercenary forces' behavior establishes itself in the area: crimes, rapes, and all kinds of brutalities committed by the mercenary forces which are becoming the rule in Honduran villages near the Nicaraguan border. The mercenary forces have virtually taken over those territories.

U.S. policy has imposed a sixth army in Central America. It has entrenched it there, in the Honduran territory bordering Nicaragua. This is affecting Honduran sovereignty. We are not deciding that. This is an objective fact. By imposing this sixth army [changes thought] because it is not a gang of mercenaries, or 50 mercenaries. If there were 50 mercenaries there, there would be no problem. There are thousands of mercenaries who are somewhere: in Honduras, on the territory near the border. They are receiving support and financing from the U.S. Government. The United States is directing them. Is it not an army that is being directed by military advisers? Is it not an army that is getting thousands of rifles and surface-to-air missiles? Isn't the assistance that is being discussed right now in the U.S. Congress -- in the upper and lower houses -- for an army?

The President is asking for $100 million: $70 million in military aid and $30 million in humanitarian aid. He speaks of supplying them with surface-to-air missiles that he has not given the Honduran Army, but that he has already given the mercenary forces in Honduras. The United States is making attempts against Honduras' sovereignty, making Honduras another Lebanon with its policy that has entrenched a sixth army inside Honduran territory near the Nicaraguan border.

[Question] Salvador Martinez of EXCELSIOR. Mr President, next week there is a new Contadora meeting, and it has also been announced that there will be a meeting of presidents in Esquipulas [Guatemala]. There also appears to be progress in the achievement of peace and control over the border between Nicaraguan and Costa Rica. Are the recent attacks and the eruption of battles on the border with Honduras an attempt to block the advances for a negotiated peace among the Central American presidents?

[Ortega] I think the greatest attack has been launched by the United States, rejecting the call issued by Contadora and the Lima Group through the Caraballeda document. It has been rejected by the U.S. President. On the contrary, instead of taking steps in favor of peace, he has launched a campaign in favor of the $100 million. The fact itself that the U.S. President has undertaken a campaign to request $100 million is an attack against the Contadora peace efforts.

It is the greatest obstacle against Contadora. The military tension on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, the participation of U.S. troops and U.S. helicopters in support of the mercenary forces, the U.S. decision to involve U.S. military advisers on the spot are new elements that unquestionably must be the priority points to be discussed in the next Contadora meeting, and we are making this known to the foreign ministers and representatives of the Contadora and Lima Groups.

[Question] Filadelfo Martinez of ACAN-EFE. How far away from the border with Honduras have these battles taken place?

[Ortega] Well, they have taken place in border territory.

[Question] Mr President, are you willing to down a helicopter or whatever of the U.S. Army even if this entails the beginning of a direct war confrontation with that country?

[Ortega] Well some years ago a U.S. helicopter crossed the Nicaraguan border, and it was downed. If they violate Nicaraguan territory again, they will also be downed, even if as a result the U.S. troops are launched against our country.

[Question] [Name indistinct] from the "Sandinist Newscast." The U.S. defense secretary recently said that Honduras supported the U.S. position and the presence of the counterrevolutionary forces there. The United States was unable to involve Honduras in this maneuver to create a crisis in the border region. Does Nicaragua believe that this means that there is a change in the Honduran Government, that there was Honduran resistance to being involved in the Reagan administration's maneuver?

[Ortega] If we follow the statements of the U.S. Government and those of the Honduran Government about the alleged Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras or the alleged Nicaraguan aggression against Honduras, we will find constant contradictions. The United States would state one thing, and then the Honduran Government would state just the opposite. Of course, the pressures on Honduras must have been great. Nevertheless, we believe that the Honduras Government is weighing the decision of seeking a peaceful solution to all these problems and not becoming involved a war. We think this is an opinion that is strong in the Honduran Government because it is the view of the Honduran people who do not want to be involved in a war with Nicaragua, in a war that has been artificially created by the United States. Therefore, we value the efforts undertaken by the Honduran Government not to fall into the trap of a confrontation with Nicaragua and to seek a peaceful solution to the existing problems. Therefore, we hope that the Honduran Government will be receptive to this proposal for a mixed commission of verification and control which would surely help ease tensions in the border territory. I think it would be a commission comprised of representatives of the Contadora Group and the Lima Group to supervise and control the Honduran-Nicaraguan border territory. That would help ease tensions in the border territory.

[Question] Mr President, when did those battles in the border zone take place, and on what date was the main contra camp destroyed? How many casualties were there on both sides during that battle or that occupation?

[Ortega] There have been a series of confrontations and battles in the past 15 days. All of these events have taken place during this series of confrontations and battles and, as I explained, the total number of casualties was more than 600 dead and wounded for the mercenary forces and 153 casualties for the EPS.

[Question] (?The exact date)?

[Ortega] It has been in that period. All those operations and actions took place in that period.

[Question] But you do not know on what date the main camp was destroyed?

[Ortega] It was throughout this period, throughout this period. All these operations took place in a 15-day period.

[Question] Mr President, I understand, from a military point of view, Nicaragua's right to defend itself. But from a political viewpoint, knowing that there was this debate going on in Washington, how did you make that military decision in the framework of that political context?

[Ortega] We cannot make the defense of our sovereignty and of our territorial integrity dependent on Yankee decisions. Nicaragua is not a state of the United States, and it is no colony of the United States. Therefore, let them debate whatever they want in the United States, where they are trying to decide on the fate of Nicaragua, because here we are not going to accept their decisions but will confront their decision if they try to attack the Nicaraguan people. In the meantime, we are not going to weaken the defense of our territorial integrity -- that is, paralyze our defensive operations -- while they are engaged in a debate in the United States.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] The problem is that the Reagan administration is always looking for excuses from everywhere and trying to impress the U.S. people and the people of the world with these excuses, which are lies. He fabricates lies. President Reagan has characterized himself as being the president who best makes up lies. [sentence as heard] The President of the United States is the greatest manufacturer of lies. He is a big manufacturer of lies. However, the lies he inflates and are momentarily believed are later unmasked.

[Question] Mr President, can you tell us about the five soldiers who died in Honduras?

[Ortega] We learned about this from news reports today. We cannot prove that they are Sandinist soldiers. We have no evidence. We cannot affirm this. Considering the campaign that has been mounted against Nicaragua, we would not be surprised if they were to present bodies of contras as bodies of Sandinists, but we are going to investigate it in any event, because when there are clashes on border territory, they could have taken bodies of our combatants. That possibility exists.

[Question] Mr President, within the context of what has been discussed and the recent initiative of Nicaragua as a nonaligned member - country, how does this occurring in Nicaragua fit in? Could it possibly be a challenge against the Nonaligned Movement?

[Ortega] We believe that the aggression by the United States against Nicaragua is an aggression, first of all, against Latin America and, first of all, [as heard] also against the peoples comprising the Nonaligned Movement. By its very nature, Latin America is identified with and many Latin American countries participate in the Nonaligned Movement.

Here there is a veritable challenge for what is the defense of the policy of nonalignment, wherein Nicaragua appears with a revolution defending a policy of nonalignment under attack by the United States, which wants Nicaragua to be an aligned Nicaragua, subject to its aggressive and terrorist policy throughout the world. Therefore, we believe that here the Nonaligned Movement has a challenge in defending this country, which is to defend the interest of the movement.

[Question] Mr President, can you tell us if during the telephone conversation with President Azcona you raised the possibility of establishing a mixed border commission, and if so, what was President Azcona's reaction?

[Ortega] We did not discuss that topic at that moment, although the topic had already been raised in the wake of the talks held with Costa Rica. Since there had been no heightening of tension at that moment, not even created artificially between Honduras and Nicaragua, such tension did not exist; it was created subsequently, and there was fighting. When I spoke to President Azcona there was fighting under way with the mercenary forces on the border territory. They are trying to make an incursion, to invade our country, so there is fighting under way. But since there is no confrontation with the Honduran Army, with Honduran troops, there is no such aggression by Nicaragua against Honduras, against any township. It is Nicaragua's defensive capacity that is being attacked from Honduran territory by the mercenary forces.

Therefore, when we spoke to President Azcona, there was no heightened tension, and we did not touch on the topic because we figured that it was advancing normally, just as we had already discussed following the talks between Honduras and Nicaragua to establish that commission. On that occasion we discussed with President Azcona the upcoming meeting. The only thing he told us was his concern at that moment after having been told by the chief of the Air Force, I believe, that there were Nicaraguan helicopters that had flown over Honduran territory. I asked him in what region. He replied: Cifuentes. I assured him that nowhere in Honduran territory are there Nicaraguan helicopters flying and that he could rest totally assured of that, and I immediately confirmed this with the Nicaraguan Air Force, that there had been no such flights in the border territory. In other words, that information was false. That was the only thing we discussed.

[Question] Mr President, does Nicaragua have the same policy toward Costa Rica as it does toward Honduras regarding the mercenaries in Costa Rica? Will Nicaragua consider that this territory is a war zone and not Costa Rican territory, and can Nicaragua attack the mercenaries located in Costa Rican territory?

[Ortega] We are not setting any thesis to the effect that if the counterrevolutionaries are in Honduran territory or in Costa Rican territory we are going to attack them there. What we believe in is the right to defend ourselves from those territories. We defend ourselves on the border territory; that is what is happening. In Costa Rica there have been serious tensions; you know perfectly well the tensions that have existed with Costa Rica, and to the extent that we have been able to control our border territory, there were great tensions with Costa Rica. We have advanced in regard to these tensions by establishing this verification and control commission. We have advanced in regard to the discussions of the same, at least, to establish this commission between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Although the commission is not a reality as yet, we have advanced in the discussions, there have been meetings, and we hope that this, too, can be worked out with Honduras.

[Question] Mr President, John Quinonez of ABC News. Do you expect that the rest of the U.S. Congress will approve the aid?

[Ortega] The correct and just thing on the part of the United States, the respectful thing on the part of the U.S. Congress toward themselves, toward the U.S. people, toward international opinion would be to flatly reject that aid requested by the President of the United States and to promote a dialogue policy between the United States and Nicaragua to overcome these problems. However, the way the discussion looks now, there is a marked tendency that they will approve the aid to the mercenary forces. This will continue to be an obstacle to overcoming these problems through dialogue, through the peaceful path; it will continue to be a blow to the peace-keeping efforts of the Contadora Group. But the most serious thing is that it will be supporting the policy of Vietnamization which the U.S. Administration is promoting against Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, allow me a question, if you please, in English. [continues in English] Mr Foreign Minister, do you feel that your attack against the contra forces, characterized as an invasion by the Reagan administration, do you feel that that attack contributed to the approval of the contra aid package by the Senate?

[D'Escoto -- in English] Quite independent of the events in the last couple weeks in which we have been involved in carrying out our duty to defend our country, I think it was clear to everyone that the United States Senate was going to approve the aid. Looking at it from afar, I would even dare say that no one thought that Reagan, no one thought that the margin would be any narrower than it actually was. Many had hoped that as a result of this campaign of defamation against Nicaragua, that he would sweep, but he didn't. I think he launched it too early, because the first day I think he carried about 80 percent credibility; by the second day it was down to 60, and by the third day everyone was angry because they realized it was a lie, it was a manipulation, they tried to say that Nicaragua had invaded Honduras, that we had transgressed the principles and norms of civilized international behavior, that we have violated the Charter of the United Nations, and everyone knows that we did not do that. Then he was caught in this ridiculous situation, that Honduras itself was saying that nothing had happened. And the President goes to the beach. And then President Reagan is going around hysterically. It was an ugly manifestation of the fact that he is very, very concerned that his instruments for aggression against Nicaragua are being totally disputed. And I guess he knows by now that $100 million or $200 million more is not going to make a difference. If he persists and if his political determination is to invade and even advance, we are not being subjected. [sentence as heard]

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto -- in English] We have never invaded Honduras. We have never transgressed any of the norms set down by international law. We have not violated the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Honduras. [Words indistinct] you see, the reason for the charge is to characterize Nicaragua as an aggressor. And that is the question. Has Nicaragua committed an act of aggression? The answer is quite clear. Categorically, no; at no moment in time has Nicaragua in the past, in the last few days, or in the future. [Sentence as heard] We will never become an aggressor. The only aggressor of Central American territories, integrity, and sovereignty is the United States of America, since it is the one that has violated the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Honduras, as well as of Nicaragua.

[Question] Mr President, no civilian casualties have been mentioned in these past few minutes. Peasants, cattlemen, and coffee growers live in this war zone. I would like to ask you about this. We should also like to know whether you can tell us the type of helicopter destroyed in the camp.

[Ortega] We have no information about civilian casualties. The helicopter is the type that the U.S. Government has supplied to the mercenary forces. This type of helicopter is U.S.-made.

[Question -- in English] You said that not in the past, not now, and not in the future will Nicaragua invade Honduras. However, there seems to be a definitional problem of where Honduras is now.

[D'Escoto -- in English] We will not commit an act of aggression. Please mind my words -- an act of aggression. We have not in the past, in the recent past, nor will we the future. We will never be aggressors.

[Question -- in English] The question of where Honduras begins at this point emerges.

[D'Escoto -- in English] The question is not where Honduras begins, but the question is one of international law. I refer you to the norms of conduct for the countries that belong to the United Nations and the community of civilized nations, norms of conduct that are given for these countries to observe. The only one that has violated these norms of conduct is the United States of America. It is spreading state terrorism, and fostering death and destruction. Any other question is irrelevant. I think that Honduras, as a sovereign and independent nation, deserves more respect from the United States. You see, we have a government that doesn't speak for itself. The United States [words indistinct] wonderful democracy in Honduras. Let Hondurans speak for themselves [words indistinct] when sovereignty or integrity is being violated by any country.

[Question -- in English] Where does the sovereignty [words indistinct]?

[D'Escoto -- in English] I think this is quite irrelevant right now. We could engage in a philosophical discussion later, but I think the problem is that Nicaragua is not an aggressor, the United States is the aggressor. Honduras has said quite clearly that we have not committed an act of aggression and that this was the greatest campaign launched by the President of the United States as an act of desperation because he feels that the mercenary troops are being totally defeated.

[D'Escoto -- in English] If anyone enters our territory in an act of aggression, we will -- in fulfillment of our duty to defend our nation -- deal with them the way that any nation would have to deal against an aggression, be they American helicopters of whatever. And I think everyone knows that almost the whole, or at least, I would say the greatest part of the northern border, the border between Nicaragua and Honduras, has become [words indistinct] army that the United States has created and has installed in that whole area.

[Question -- in Portuguese] [Words indistinct] decided to attack the counterrevolution wherever it is. I ask: [Words indistinct] this moment a demonstration of force and organization on the part of Nicaragua from the military standpoint [words indistinct] your response, or your message to President Reagan?

[Ortega] We have not adopted the decision to attack the counterrevolutionaries wherever they are. It must be borne in mind that the heads of the counterrevolutionaries are in the United States, in the White House, in the Pentagon. They are the chiefs of the counterrevolutionaries. They are the ones who are attacking Nicaragua. These are nothing but tools of that terrorist policy. It has always been our decision to defend Nicaragua from attacks against it and we will continue defending Nicaragua from the attacks that the mercenary forces launch against us.

We do not attack; we defend ourselves. We are attacked, which is different. We defend ourselves from those who attack us.

[Station announcer] This was Radio Sandino, voice of the revolution, broadcasting the press conference President Commander Daniel and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D' Escoto Brockman at the Directorate of Information and Press of the Presidency of the Republic.

U.S. SENATE VOTES APPROVAL OF CONTRA AID

PA281356 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1212 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The U.S. Senate has approved the Reagan administration's plans to continue the war against Nicaragua. It was reported from the U.S. capital last night that the U.S. Senate approved by a close vote of 53 to 47 the aid requested by President Ronald Reagan for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries.

The Republican-sponsored bill approved in the Senate authorizes the Reagan administration to immediately use $25 million in military [as heard] aid for the contras and establishes a 90-day period during which efforts must be undertaken to achieve a peaceful regional solution to the Nicaraguan situation, in other words, to have Nicaragua yield. If this is not achieved, then Reagan could use the rest of the $75 million in aid for his quote, freedom fighters, unquote, who for several years have been causing destruction and killing the Nicaraguan people.

Radio Sandino has been receiving telephone calls from radio stations of Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, and Panama, among others, requesting reports on our people's reaction to the Senate approval of the $100 million for the contras. The interest and concern in the continent are evident in view of the imperialist power's decision to destroy the revolutionary government through armed aggression. If the contras do not achieve it, then the Yankee Marines will come. Our reply to our radio journalist colleagues has been what our people have stated: The gringos will be bogged down in Nicaragua and Central America, which will be turned into another Vietnam whose fire could also reach the United States.

An official reaction is expected this morning to the Senate decision that will lead to a new debate in the House of Representatives which had rejected Reagan's request last week.

MINISTRY CLAIMS 600 CONTRA CASUALTIES INFLICTED

PA272202 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2156 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Defense Ministry reported today that the Sandinist Army inflicted about 600 casualties on rebel units during recent clashes in the northern part of the country.

U.S. ROLE ON HONDURAS-NICARAGUA SITUATION VIEWED

Commentary on Reagan's 'Lie'

PA302318 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Some news media in collaboration with Washington insist on spreading Ronald Reagan's lie about the presumed violation of the Honduran border by Nicaraguan troops. While such lies proliferate, so far not even the White House, with its sophisticated means of observation and espionage, has been able to furnish the slightest proof of the alleged Nicaraguan invasion.

Evidently the distorted reports published in the pro-U.S. media are merely speculations originating in those media sources, or provided by the CIA or Pentagon agents who invented the story. Nicaragua has responsibly reiterated that not even one Sandinist solider has crossed the Honduran border after inflicting hundreds of casualties on the former Somozist guards, who do find shelter in that neighbor country.

Although it is true that the U.S. President has ridiculed himself by spreading lies, the role of the brand new Honduran Government in all this provocation is just as ridiculous. Official Honduran sources initially denied the U.S. reports on the incident. However, due to Washington's pressure, hours later they joined the unscrupulous campaign. What Tegucigalpa did not foresee is that in so doing, it reaffirmed its submissive role to Washington's policy. It turned out that the United States learned before Honduras that the territory of that Central American nation had been trespassed upon by presumed Sandinist forces. Washington approved the urgent delivery of $30 million [as received] to the alleged victim, based on a request from Tegucigalpa that was never made. The poorly coordinated lie came to the surface, and Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo again found himself trapped in Regan's anti-Nicaraguan campaign, to which he seems to be adapting without much difficulty.

Ortega Warning to U.S. Officers

PA292347 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Report by Estrella Diaz, "special correspondent" in Managua]

[Text] During a press conference in Managua on Friday, Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega said: Let's not be surprised to see a U.S. helicopter shot down by Sandinist fighters one of these days. Let's not be surprised to see U.S. officers killed. The U.S. Government will be solely responsible for its aggressive and disrespectful involvement in the conflict by supporting mercenary forces (?stationed) in Honduras. Ortega pointed out that the United States makes great efforts to involve Honduras. Since this country has not responded, the United States has made up its mind to act on its own. Ortega said: This is most serious because it shows that President Reagan does not intend to listen to the voice of Latin America, to that of Contadora, or to that of the Lima Group to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Ortega had this to say about the approval of President Reagan's proposal at the Senate.

[Begin recording] What does this mean? It means that the trend in the U.S. Congress has been to continue to strengthen the U.S. Government's terrorist policy in Central America. Since the mercenary forces have no future even if U.S. military advisers get there and even if U.S. aircraft -- helicopters, and so forth -- are used in an effort to protect these mercenary forces, the Congress has committed itself to an interventionist policy in Nicaragua. This is why we say that the latest steps taken will turn the conflict into one similar to Vietnam. [end recording]

Mexican Paper Cited

PA302212 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 86

[Report by Francisco Ramirez via telephone from Mexico City -- live or recorded]

[Text] In an article written by its correspondent in Tegucigalpa, the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR pointed out that the United States has become stage director in the current conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua, a conflict which has been artificially created on the eve of the U.S. Senate's vote on the request for $100 million for the Nicaraguan contras.

EXCELSIOR said that the omnipresent U.S. Government officials anticipate the news reports in Washington, conduct the public relations for President Jose Azcona Hoyo's government, take journalists to the border, and deliver the official reports to them. They also transport Honduran troops in their helicopters and, of course, they pay for this operation in dollars, EXCELSIOR reported, referring to the airlift of thousands of Honduran soldiers to face an alleged Sandinist invasion.

After noting that the Americans, as they are called in that Central American country, are in the Armed Forces staff, in the Air Force, in the Foreign Secretariat, in towns bordering with Nicaragua, EXCELSIOR said that the number will increase in April, when the joint military maneuvers are stepped up. Since 1981 to date, the United States and Honduras have carried out 19 joint military exercises which, in addition to trying to pressure Nicaragua, have served to acclimatize the U.S. troops in the region and to create a strong permanent military resource.

In another part of its documented report, the Mexican daily EXCELSIOR said that in the specific case of the contras, Washington is facing growing difficulties due to the military ineptitude of its protegees, as well as their lack of popularity among the Honduran population. For the majority of the people, the so-called contras are not -- as they are for Ronald Reagan -- freedom fighters, but bandits trained solely to handle weapons, who have sowed terror in many Honduran towns.

Paz Barnica on Aid to Contras

PA282300 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] For years the Honduran authorities have been attempting to conceal a truth that is clearer than water: The counterrevolutionary bands that operate against Nicaragua enjoy all kinds of guarantees in Honduras which they conspicuously put to use throughout the entire border region that divides the two Central American countries.

Former Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, after thousands of statements denying that presence, has now publicly admitted that during the Suazo Cordova administration the bands of former Somozist guardsmen used Honduras as a safe haven and that it was through that country that the contras received the aid sent from Washington. However, this apparent confession by Paz Barnica neither comes as a surprise nor frees the current Honduran regime presided over by Azcona Hoyo from its responsibilities. The new president repeats more or less the same imprecisions as his predecessor, namely, that he has no knowledge of the presence of counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras, to which he adds that the border with Nicaragua is long and difficult to control.

The denial has now come straight from inside Honduras. The inhabitants of the eastern El Paraiso Department have reported the alarming presence in that area of former Somozist guardsmen who, harassed by troops of the EPS have crossed the border into Honduras, where they commit all kinds of outrages against the local population. According to area residents, the mercenary groups have established three camps in the area, from where they stage raids against farm areas and the humble dwellings of the Honduran peasants.

The savage behavior of those who Reagan is fond of calling freedom fighters is always the same: rapes, looting, squabbles, and murders. In reaction to the people's complaints, the government in Tegucigalpa claims to have sent authorities to look into those reports. However, like in Roberto Suazo's days, the crimes and the banditry go unpunished.

The fact is that nothing can be done against this plague by those who have allowed their country to be turned into a Yankee military base, which is serving at this moment as the staging grounds for the 1986 version of the "Cabanas" and "Terencio Sierra" maneuvers, while U.S. ships carrying nuclear weapons visit Costa Rica to also conduct war games in the Central American Pacific area.

The Yankee presence in Honduras is no less harmful than the presence of the contras. It has been publicly charged that the virtual occupation forces are terrorizing the inhabitants of Comayagua, where the U.S. base of Palmerola is located. Several minors have been sexually abused by the soldiers and four women have been infected with AIDS, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, of which Reagan's glorious soldiers are carriers.

'Our America' Commentary

PA280447 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his brand new advisers do not stop plotting to have $100 million delivered to the ex-Somozist guards, gangs that operate against Nicaragua from Honduran territory. The conflict generated in the past few hours on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border has been created with the pretext of an alleged invasion of Sandinist forces against the bordering country. Of course, it is no wonder that it was the U.S. imperialists who first announced such a big lie. Apparently they control Honduras much more strictly than the government of Jose Azcona Hoyo himself. Once advised, Reagan was not late in announcing an additional $20 million in military aid for Honduras to help this country cope with what he described as a Nicaraguan adventurous spirit.

No less alarming is the news about a broad combat deployment at the border with Nicaragua that includes part of the U.S. troops who, curiously, are in Honduras participating in the provocative "Cabanas" and "Terencio Sierra" exercises this year. Nicaragua has categorically denied that its forces, bent on eliminating the gangs of ex-Somozist guards based in Honduras, have violated this country's borders. Nicaragua asked the Contadora Group to send to the border area immediately a supervisory and control commission to determine where the aggressions really originate.

Most noteworthy in this situation is that Honduras -- on Wednesday morning -- hurried to flatly deny that its territory had been attacked by the EPS as Washington had asserted. Regarding this, Lisandro Quezada, press secretary for the Presidency in Honduras, said that the country had not been invaded and that, therefore, Azcona Hoyo had not requested any U.S. military aid. Shortly after this slip, Tegucigalpa contradicted itself openly by asserting that, indeed, just as Washington asserted, Nicaraguan troops had penetrated Honduran territory.

According to a local saying that helps us disentangle this gambit, a word to the wise is sufficient. The presumed proof of the Sandinist attack is so vague and ridiculous that Major Jorge Arguello, Honduran Armed Forces public relations director, could not tell the press whether the reports about the downing of a Honduran helicopter by Nicaraguan forces were true or false. Neither could the officer indicate the exact point through which the Sandinists entered Honduran territory. He gave the press only an inaccurate and conventional answer by saying: The Armed Forces are ready to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This phrase was uttered at the time when thousands of U.S. troops usurp national territory with the consent of local authorities. Such antecedents result in an unmistakable odor of a gross hoax emanating from all this. Such a fabrication cannot convince even the most gullible observer.

LATIN AMERICAN STAND AT IDB MEETING VIEWED

PA310326 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 86

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The 27th meeting of the IDB has concluded its deliberations with more pain than glory. It proposed no solution for the vital foreign debt of Latin America. This was the topic most discussed during the meeting. It was unanimously proclaimed that this problem is becoming an increasingly heavy burden and that it represents a destabilization factor. The obstructionist activities of the United States were again notorious. The U.S. representatives disagreed with the Latin American nations' requests that the IDB reform its structure and play the role it should play with regard to the foreign debt problem.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries presented unified positions during several aspects of the discussions which were not to the liking of the delegations from the United States and other Western industrialized countries. The statements made by the Latin Americans made it clear that there is deep resentment over the treatment that the capitalist developed countries have given the foreign debt -- treatment that has provoked the stagnation of economies and social conflicts.

One sign of the egoism characteristic of the United States was the position of the U.S. representatives at the IDB meeting. The U.S. representatives ineffectually tried to reform the IDB voting system. The White House wants to eliminate the possibility that a Latin American majority will exert influence on IDB agreements to the detriment of U.S. interests. Washington finds it essential that international economic organizations be under its control so it can use them as a blackmail tool against independent governments. It was in this framework that the U.S. delegates presented an ultimatum at the meeting. They said their country could stop giving funds to the IDB if the Latin Americans do not accept Washington's commands.

Throughout the meeting, many spoke in favor of the IDB providing additional funds for development and for the organization advocating distribution of the weight of the foreign debt between rich creditors and the debtors. The United States has decided that it was enough to tell its representatives to deplore the results of the foreign debt without telling them to propose measures aimed at finding real solutions for the gloomy problem. The U.S. praise for the often-mentioned Baker Plan was not seconded by the Latin American delegates, who on many occasions pointed out the endless deficiencies of the project, which has been presented as a panacea by the government of Ronald Reagan.

This annual IDB meeting is already part of the past, but observers clearly noticed that the sessions were unable to objectively satisfy Latin America's economic demands.

FAR MARKS DEFEAT OF SOUTH AFRICANS IN ANGOLA

FL282019 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] FAR units are celebrating today the 10th anniversary of the repulsion of the invading South African troops from the territory of the People's Republic of Angola, which took place on 27 March 1976. In meetings being held today at FAR units, an address to all troops by Division General Raul Castro is being read. Following is the text of Div Gen Raul Castro's declaration.

Ten years ago, on 27 March 1976, the heroic troops of the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] and our internationalist combatants drove back the invading South African troops which were attempting to keep the African Continent under the yoke of racism, apartheid, colonialism, and imperialist domination. The defeat of the Army of the backward Pretoria regime has altered the scene in the southern end of Africa. Other colonies attained independence. Zimbabwe was liberated; the Namibian people stepped up their struggle; and, in South Africa itself, the black masses are rebelling against such an opprobrious system of exploitation.

Since then, events indicate that South Africa, the United States' favorite ally in the region, has very little time left. Racism and apartheid will be forever eliminated. But, the beast continues to lash out with the claws with its criminal actions, the political maneuvers and military attacks do not stop. A visceral hatred motivates South Africa and the United States against Angola. They are even attempting to link the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from that fraternal country, a perverse pretext to check the decolonialization of that rich and strategic territory.

Today Angola's independence is still threatened. South Africa is rearming with U.S. assistance. They are using all financial resources, training and arming UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] counterrevolutionaries, who carry out brutal and criminal acts against the people and those who help them. Troops of the apartheid Army are stationed in Cunene and are threatening with broadening their warlike expansionist goals. Namibia continues to be occupied by South African troops and now serves as a staging area for new aggressions. Blind with hatred they are doing everything possible to destablize the Angolan revolution. They are attempting to frighten the people who defeated them once before. But neither Angola nor our internationalist combatants will retreat. As proclaimed by the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] - Labor Party Politburo, the Angolan revolution is irreversible and will overcome the aggressions and difficulties unleashed by the Pretoria regime and Washington.

In our case, the blood the Cuban combatants, Latin Americans, shed with courage, selflessness, and devotion, will never dry out. We are ready to repeat, as often as necessary, the feats of 10 years ago at Quifangondo, Ebo, and Konde. Let us repeat today the statement by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz during the mass rally held on the occasion of the closing of the first Cuban Communist Party congress: Because of the duties demanded by our principles, our ideology, our convictions, and our own blood, we will defend Angola, and we will defend Africa. Fatherland or death, we shall win!

HAITIAN COMMUNIST LEADER VIEWS LOCAL SITUATION

PA300400 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

["Analysis" by Rene Theodore, secretary general general of the United Party of Haitian Communists; date not given -- recorded; in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish]

[Text] Demonstrations in Port-au-Prince had paralyzed the entire city. Simultaneously, tires were burned at all corners of Commercial Street, Port-au-Prince's main street, interrupting traffic. All this was in addition to widespread strikes of taxi drivers and buses serving the outskirts-capital route.

What really happened was that the conflict between the National Council of the Government and the people was aggravated.

Much manipulation by privileged sectors occurred. These sectors saw their privileges threatened by the fact that the popular movement was not only more and better organized but also more and more aware of what was at stake. The agitation was against the regime itself and for its substitution through an impossible plan that entailed deposing the National Council of the Government and replacing it with a civilian government, the names of whose members no one was willing to mention. What would be the basis for this government? How genuine could the people's representation in such a government be?

When the conflict began to intensify and the people rose against the Council of the Government -- this makes it truly possible to carry out the change -- this became very dangerous, because even the manipulations of the Duvalier-oriented sectors were clearly seen. These sectors tried to take advantage of the situation to bring about, let's say, an irremediable conflict.

At this time, the United Party of the Haitian communists and other political sectors issued a communique acknowledging the genuineness of the people's struggle and their right to go out onto the streets to defend their rights, yet appealing to particularly ponder the form of power that would take the place of the current Council of the Government. This appeal asked for more time so as not to engage in a struggle without some prior knowledge of where this struggle would lead.

Several sectors, including the Haitian Communists, opposed the current extremism and exaggeration. Finally, the people's masses obeyed instructions and returned home. Anyway, nothing has been done, except that the National Council has been forced to make several concessions in addition to changes in the cabinet such as the removal of certain undesirable persons from the Council of the Government.
Other concessions occurred last night regarding the curfew which was completely lifted. No more curfew as of tonight. In addition, it has been confirmed to the people that all political parties can freely carry out their activities. At this time something is real. Great hopes are entertained that the people's masses will indeed continue to mobilize their organizations whenever they need to and, above all, that the movement is heading toward the formation of a national democratic and popular government, a popular power that would finally be installed in the country.

Interview With Theodore

PA260727 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Interview with Rene Theodore, secretary general of the United Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH, by Josie Pele; date not given -- recorded in French with simultaneous Spanish translation]

[Text] [Pele] Rene Theodore, I would like you to give me a brief analysis of the situation in Haiti.

[Theodore] The current situation in Haiti is marked by the changes that have taken place within the National Government Council and by the numerous demands being made by the people and reiterated in the past 24 hours. Following Gerard Gourgue's resignation, the National Government Council has completely changed. Only two former council members remained, General Henri Namphy and Colonel William Regala. The third member of the council is Jacques Francois, a lawyer and jurist. General Namphy has said that this reshuffle was done to strengthen democracy; that is, for democracy to bloom in Haiti. These were not his own words, but it will give you a general idea. We must now wait for more to be done in this regard.

We must wait because the demands being made affect the National Government Council directly. Many sectors are against the National Government Council. These sectors feel that the chosen departmental representatives should form a provisional government and that elections should be held soon. The people do not want the traditional type elections that only result in presidents who later become autocrats, as has traditionally occurred. They want leaders who will promote and effectively institutionalize the popular movement that had been watching from the sidelines for a long time. The way in which this institutionalization will be done has yet to be defined. We feel that it should be presented and subject to a national debate. As a matter of fact, the PUCH is currently trying to present the need for a national debate before the people. We feel that a national debate on the type of government we need at this moment is necessary and that it would be helpful in resolving the current political crisis.

MALMIERCA, DELEGATION RETURN FROM BAHAMAS

FL281350 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has returned to Havana from the Bahamas, where he held talks with Bahamian Deputy Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Clement Maynard and Attorney General and Education Minister Paul Adderley. The talks with the Bahamian authorities were held in an atmoshpere of candid cordiality. The two sides discussed matters of bilateral interest.

CASTRO PRESIDES OVER POLITBURO MEETING 27 MARCH

FL281134 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee, presided over the ordinary meeting of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo held on Thursday. The principle research draft for social sciences for the present 5-year period was approved at the meeting. Also studied at the meeting were measures adopted to continue elevating the efficiency of internationalist cooperation that Cuba provides several countries in the health area. The Politburo submitted an extensive analysis on the experiences, results, and deficiencies of agricultural cooperatives as well as the experimental structure of the municipal union of cooperatives. The Politburo adopted a number of decisions and recommendations to erradicate nonagricultural and nonauthorized mercantile activities detected in cooperatives.

RAUL CASTRO ATTENDS GUANTANAMO CEREMONY

FL271126 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] During a ceremony at the Costa Rica Center in Guantanamo, the 28th anniversary of the founding of the Fran Pais Eastern Command of the second front was celebrated by Army General Raul Castro. Raul Michel Vargas, alternate Politburo member and first secretary of the party in Guantanamo, said on this occasion that the historical date coincides with the productive success of the Costa Rica Center's workers who are the first in the province and the country to meet their sugar production goals during the present harvest.

ABRAHANTES SPEAKS AT PSYCHOLOGISTS' CONFERENCE

FL281148 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Division General Jose Abrahantes, Central Committee member and interior minister, has given a special speech at the first congress of the Cuban Psychologists Association which will close today in Havana after 2 days of sessions. Abrahantes referred to the importance of that specialty in the work of the Minint [Interior Ministry] and said that it is one of the state organisms that in a most diverse, universal, and decisive method requires the application of psychology which could also play a more creative role and be of greater human and social significance.

VEIGA SPEAKS AT LABOR, SOCIAL, WOMEN'S MEETING

FL291254 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Only socialism can guarantee labor unions all their rights, possibilities, and freedom, Roberto Veiga, Politburo member and Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions secretary general, has asserted at the closing ceremony of a national meeting on labor, social, and women's affairs. At Havana's Lazaro Pena Theater, labor leaders from every province and national labor unions discussed the work performed last year and their work objectives for this year.

MALMIERCA PRESENTS REPORT AT MINISTRY MEETING

FL261254 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] With great [words indistinct] the Cuban Foreign Ministry annual review meeting, which was presided over by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Politburo member and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Isidoro Malmierca, Central Committee member and foreign minister, presented the main report detailing the year's work, which was amended several times in a democratic atmosphere encouraged by the Cuban foreign minister.

CHANGES INTRODUCED TO ECONOMY PLANNING METHODS

FL290108 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] A new methodology will be in effect in state planning. Changes have been introduced to current planning methods. These changes are being submitted to organizations and enterprises and will be made official late. These new methods include viable solutions for present problems and reduces bureaucratic activities aimed at improving the system of directing and planning the economy. The new planning methodology is a result of the agreements reached at the party third congress and implies a structural remodeling of the Central Planning Board.

BAHAMAS

FOREIGN MINISTER SEES OFF CUBAN DELEGATION

FL282210 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Clement Maynard, bid farewell to his Cuban counterpart yesterday at the conclusion of two days of discussions. Sofie Saunders was at the airport when the delegation departed.

Both Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Malmierca and Bahamian Foreign Minister Maynard expect to derive mutual benefits from the 2 days of discussions. Mr Maynard said a number of key issues were successfully dealt with, among them the boundaries between Cuba and the Bahamas.

[Begin Maynard Recording] Their concerns really made the means for a better understanding and for working out problems on contact, with the point of view of being able to know the personnel here that they are to deal with in case of any difficulties, for instance arrest of their fishing boats. Another thing is that they are concerned about the boundaries with the Bahamas and also a smooth way of working out an arrangement whereby we can agree. [as heard] We are expecting sometime in the near future that there will be some legislation before the House of Assembly which will deal with the provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention which would allow for archipelagic rights for the Bahamas. When that is done we will be able to better negotiate and to discuss these matters in a general way with the public as well as with our neighbors. [end recording]

Mr Malmierca said based on talks with Mr Maynard he anticipates the strengthening of ties between our two countries.

[Begin Malmierca recording, in Spanish with consecutive English translation] We have gone through several aspects of our bilateral relations, and we have confirmed the mutual interest in expanding those relations and the existing possibilities of doing so. [end recording]

Mr Malmierca and his delegation returned to Cuba on board Cubana Airlines.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON NATIONAL DEBT

FL291630 Bridgetown CANA in English 1623 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 29, CANA -- The national debt of Barbados climbed to just over one billion dollars (one Bds dollar; 50 cents U.S.) at the end of 1985, the government's latest annual economic report says. The figure represents an increase of 143.7 million dollars or 15.1 per cent on the 1984 total of 950.9 million dollars. Between 1983 and the 1984, the increase was 10.4 per cent.

According to 107-page report, just out, the domestic component of the national debt increased by 11 per cent to reach 650.6 million dollars or 59.4 per cent of the island's total debt.

The foreign component grew by 21.5 per cent compared with 5.1 per cent in 1984 as external borrowings rose from 265.3 million dollars to 444 million.

The largest liability was that to the International Institutions category which stood at 169.6 million dollars or 3.6 per cent over the 1984 level of 163.7 million dollars, and represented 38 per cent of total foreign debt, the report says.

HAITI

CLEMARD JOSEPH CHARLES RETURNS FROM EXILE

PA310335 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Mar (AFP) -- A new candidate for the Presidency of the Republic of Haiti, Clemard Joseph Charles, returned from exile on Sunday to Port-au-Prince, where some 1,000 Haitians welcomed him at the airport.

Clemard Joseph Charles, 62, is the former director of the Commercial Bank of Haiti. Very close at the beginning to "Papa Doc" (President Francois Duvalier) during the 1960's, he was condemned to death in 1971 and accused of "Treason and conspiracy in the internal security of the nation." He was granted parole in 1972 and his penalty commuted to 20 years of hard labor.

Clemard Joseph Charles has been living in the United States since 1976, when he was released by President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

BRAZIL HOLDING FORMER POLICE CHIEF PIERRE

FL291239 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Brazil is considering whether to extradite a former Haitian police chief back to Haiti. The former official is accused of human rights violations during the rule of deposed Haitian leader Jean-Claude Duvalier. Brazilian authorities are holding Colonel Albert Pierre until a ruling is made on the extradition issue. Mr Pierre has been taken into custody by Brazilian officials to prevent him from leaving Brazil while a decision on the extradition is made.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

CHAMBERS THREATENS TO IMPOSE PRICE CONTROLS

FL291204 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Trinidad Prime Minister George Chambers has rejected demands to relax currency exchange controls and threatened to impose price controls if importers continue raising prices by 50 percent. The prime minister told members of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce and Industry that recent 50 percent price increases imposed on some goods as a result of the currency devaluation ordered in December was unreasonable and unjustified. Each Trinidad and Tobago dollar is now worth 27 U.S. cents.

MINISTRY PROTESTS U.S. ARREST OF ARMY CAPTAIN

FL281202 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Suriname has accused the United States of entrapping one of its senior military officials on drug smuggling charges. Suriname is protesting the arrest of an Army captain who is being held without bail on charges of conspiracy to import cocaine while allegedly offering a safe haven for shipping the drug through the former Dutch colony.

The Suriname Foreign Ministry has issued a statement saying the case could seriously impare relations with the United States. The government statement said the involvement of secret agents in North American intelligence services suggests an attempt by the U.S. Government to destabilize the regime in Suriname and isolate it internationally. Suriname says the arrest of the Army captain who was in the United States with a Surinamese diplomatic passport violates diplomatic practice. The officer's lawyer is filing a motion to dismiss the charges on the basis of diplomatic immunity.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department says the captain has not been accredited to the United States and does not have diplomatic immunity.

SOVIET LABOR REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL191934 Paramaribo International Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Vladimir Nikitin of the foreign relations section of the Soviet labor movement arrived in our country last Monday.

Mr Nikitin, during his visit, will meet with various Surinamese labor leaders. Tomorrow he will be the guest of the labor union federation De Moederbond. Besides meetings with the member unions of this organization, he will also visit some of the companies in which these member unions operate. Mr Nikitin will probably leave Suriname around the 25th of this month.

12-MEMBER COMMISSION TO DRAFT SOCIAL PACT

FL212156 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, March 21, CANA -- A 12-member commission has been appointed to draft a social pact involving the government, the business sector, and trade unions, the government announced.

The commission was installed earlier this month by military leader and Chairman of the Topberaad (supreme consultative organ) Desi Bouterse.

The commission has two months in which to study the socio-economic situation in the country and prepare a draft pact which it will submit to the Topberaad -- the highest political organ here.

Its terms of reference include the development of an economy with as broad a production base as possible, more active involvement of the state and private initiative in the production process, a change in the role of commerce, and a reasonable wage policy.

With regard to salaries, the protocol states that the wage policy should be based on the premise that reasonable salaries should be paid, but that their evolution should not be to the detriment of the country's export competitiveness.